

THE TIMES
Tomorrow

A kinder cure
There is an alternative to mastectomy in the treatment of breast cancer

Water wall
The Thames' flow is divided in the last of our series on how to improve the South Bank

Left out?
What future for the SDP's left wing after David Owen's turn to the right



Cup kick-off
Wales and N Ireland start World Cup qualifying rounds while England warms up against E Germany

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio Competition prize was shared by two winners yesterday. Mr Bruce Marshall of Croydon, Surrey and Mr Peter Barriball of Ashford, Kent, each received £1,000.

Portfolio list page 22. How to play, back page Information Service.

Inquiry call on hospital food poison

Mr Michael Meacher, the Opposition spokesman on health and Lord Ennals, a former Labour minister, called for a public inquiry into the salmonella outbreak at the Stanley Royd hospital, Wakefield. The spread of the outbreak is now attributed to roast beef left in the open for 10 hours on a warm day. Page 3

Mont Louis breaking up

The Belgian coastguard reported last night that the French cargo ship Mont Louis, which sank two weeks ago with 30 barrels of radioactive material on board, was breaking up in heavy seas 12 miles off Ostend.

Industrial slide

The annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science opened with a presidential address that blamed the education system for Britain's industrial decline. Page 4

Video of killings

The jury of the triple murder trial at Durham was shown a seven-minute police video of the Laitner family's house in Sheffield after the killings. Page 3



Leader page 15

Letters: On acid rain, from Mr L. Lingens, and others; liberation theology, from Mr G. Greene. CH: pit strike, from Professor G. Zellick, and Miss C. Gibberd

Leading articles: SDP: Cabinet reshuffle; Turkey. Features, pages 12-14

Why secrets should have a watery grave, by Des Wilson; staying on in black Zimbabwe; Motel which keeps the smokers fuming; Tartans go stylish; London visions: a lagoon on the South Bank?

Obituary, page 16

Yilmaz Güney, The Marquis of Aberdeen

Computer Horizons, pages 18-21

Computing in universities - the rude facts; How British Telecom and IBM plan to work together; Religion on a terminal; Computer games - do they damage your health; The defence of Ada

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Hurd and Boyson for Ulster in ministerial shuffle

By Anthony Berins, Political Correspondent

Mr Douglas Hurd, the former Home Office Minister, was last night appointed Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in a shuffle of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's ministerial team.

Mr Rhodes Boyson is appointed Minister of State at the Northern Ireland Office. He was previously Minister of State for Social Security.

The surprise appointment was that of Mr David Young, former chairman of the Manpower Services Commission. The Prime Minister has, at a stroke, made him a Minister without Portfolio, in the Cabinet, with membership of the Privy Council, and a with a life peerage to be conferred.

The only thing he has not been given is a ministerial salary. Downing Street sources said that as a man of independent means, he would forego the salary of £31,680 payable to Cabinet ministers in the House of Lords. Mr Young is aged 52.

The third Cabinet appointment was Lord Gowrie, who becomes Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and remains Minister for the Arts. Lord Gowrie, a former Minister of State, also retains his responsibility for the Civil Service, but will become the leading front bench spokesman, in the Lords, on economic matters.

Three ministers tendered their resignations, led, as expected by Mr James Prior, former Northern Ireland Secretary, who said in a letter to

Mrs Thatcher: "We came into the House together, and have worked together ever since, not always in complete harmony but with a frankness that is characteristic of both of us."

"You can rest assured that I shall continue to give the Government my full support and loyalty from the back benches."

Mrs Thatcher replied that after 15 years together on the front benches "it will seem strange to be without you". She also said: "Your resignation is a loss to Cabinet. But your talents

will be a gain to any new position you may take up." Mr Prior is now expected to become chairman of GEC.

Lord Cockfield, the former Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has resigned, but he is to become new British Commissioner to the EEC, the Conservative nomination to replace Mr Christopher Tugendhat.

Lord Bellwin, Minister of State for Local Government, is also stepping down from government office, but is said that he had completed an arduous five-year stint at Environment and had dealt with 26 Bills in that time.

Mr John Gummer, the Conservative Party chairman, is to lose his departmental responsibility as a Minister of State at the Department of Employment. He has been appointed Paymaster General, a post which involves signing cheques for a few hours each morning.

He will continue to attend Cabinet, as party chairman, but will cease to draw a ministerial salary. It is thought that Conservative Central Office will make up the £31,364 loss to Mr Gummer.

The political attention of the shuffle will be directed at Mr Hurd: former diplomat, a novelist of some distinction and a former political aide to Mr Edward Heath.

He is known as an able administrator, and although he has "wet" affinities, his ability as a diplomat, and his service as a Minister of State in the Foreign Office and then the Home Office, qualify him for the arduous task in Ulster. One Whitehall source said last night: "He is an adornment to any Conservative government."

Nevertheless, his first task will be to damp down some of the speculation provoked by a weekend television interview given by one of his new juniors, Mr Nicholas Scott, who spoke of a "pooling" of sovereignty on cross-border security.

One senior government source said last night that cooperation was fine, but talk of "pooling" sovereignty could be discounted. It was said to be an over-free interpretation of government policy.

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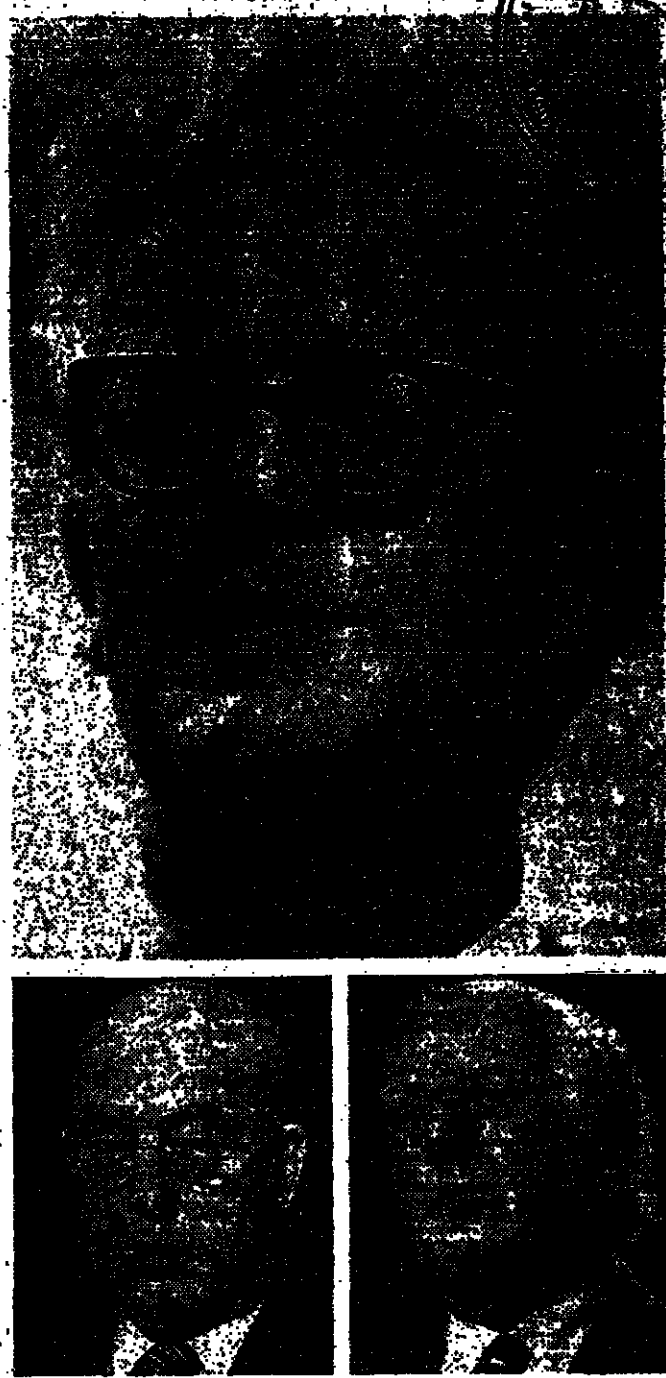
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Mr Douglas Hurd (top), new Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr Rhodes Boyson (left), his new deputy, and Mr James Prior, who returns from Belfast to the back benches.

Dollar rises but pound resilient

The dollar passed another significant landmark when its value rose briefly above three Deutschmarks, during early trading in Far East markets yesterday. But it eased back after the European foreign markets opened as dealers took some profits.

The dollar still closed in London higher than its previous level, against the Deutschmark at 2.9930, up 65 points.

But the pound proved more resilient than other European currencies. Although it fell at one stage to a record low of \$1.2705, it recovered to close 10 points up at \$1.2765.

Kenneth Fleet, page 23
Wall Street, page 25

Rail and bus strikes called off

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Public transport unions should expect no more strikes after a threatened 24-hour strike over service cuts and job losses.

The first to lift the strike threat was the National Union of Railwaysmen (NUR), which said that it was satisfied with the guarantees given on job prospects by London Regional Transport. However, it said that the one-day strike was only suspended for four weeks as far as British Rail was concerned.

Mr James Knap, NUR general secretary, said the union executive had decided only to suspend the strike because "we were not happy that the statement from the British Railways Board meets our needs."

The NUR was quickly followed by busmen's leaders in the Transport and General Workers' Union, who will hold a delegate conference tomorrow to plan strategy. The union feared that London Regional Transport wanted to cut more than 6,000 jobs by 1987, but was persuaded to call off the strike after a management decision to freeze any compulsory redundancies for at least six months.

London Regional Transport and British Rail have promised the unions that they will be fully consulted on developments.

Begin admitted to hospital for urinary tests

Tel Aviv (Reuters) - Mr Menachem Begin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, was admitted to hospital yesterday with urinary trouble and was having tests to see if he needed an operation, a hospital spokesman said.

Mr Begin, aged 71, entered Sharnch Tzedek Hospital in Jerusalem after complaining that he felt unwell during the night. The hospital said he was in good condition and his life was not in danger.

Hopes rise as NCB and miners talk on

about Editor, Edinburgh

The NCB and the NUM could be shut without a dispute. The NCB insisted that economic considerations should not dictate closures. The union also demands a reaffirmation of the Pib for Coal and its optimistic targets for output and employment.

The Edinburgh talks, taking place in the elegant drawing room of a three-star hotel near the Murrumbidgee stadium, represent the best hope for a peaceful settlement of the dispute since it began on March 12 as a "rolling strike" in the Yorkshire coalfield and went on to engulf more than two thirds of the industry.

A trio of TUC leaders - Mr Norman Willis, the general secretary, Mr David Street, and Mr Raymond Buckton - is closely monitoring the negotiations, and the encouraging signs will be welcomed in London as the transport, steel and power unions hold separate meetings later this week to examine what sympathetic action they can offer the striking miners.

Mr Arthur Scargill, president of the NUM, insisted yesterday that the final say in whether the dispute should be called off will be in the hands of the union's delegate conference. This body, meeting on April 19, instructed the national officials to put any acceptable proposals emerging from negotiations with the board to a recalled conference for a final decision.

Commenting on a report in yesterday's Daily Mirror, written by its publisher, Mr Robert Maxwell, that Mr Scargill was now ready to put any settlement to a secret ballot, Mr Scargill added: "Newspapers should stick to the facts rather than inventing stories." Mr MacGregor, however, expressed hope that there would be a vote of the men if the talks are successful.

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Prior goes 'with no hard feelings'

By Richard Ford

Mr James Prior said last night after resigning from the Government as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland that he would not be a rebel kicking over the traces on the back benches.

He had not been offered a very senior post in the Cabinet by the Prime Minister in her shuffle, and admitting that he was sorry to leave the Government, he said he went without any hard feelings.

He would still speak from the back benches and he believed that the view he represented would still be put in the Cabinet and within the party.

Mr Prior said that he hoped he would be remembered as someone who had spoken his mind, carried out his ministerial tasks with reason, and that I have represented within the Conservative party that part of society and philosophy which embraces one nation and that we have a part to play."

He and the Prime Minister had always argued their cases through and within the past 18 months they had had a good relationship.

Mr Prior said he would be able to spend more time in his constituency and it is widely expected that he will take appointments in industry, including the chairmanship of the General Electric Company in succession to Lord Carrington.

Mondale's challenge on deficit

From Nicholas Ashford, Philadelphia

Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential candidate, fulfilled his party convention pledge yesterday when he unveiled his detailed plan for reducing the huge federal deficit by two-thirds by 1989.

Challenging President Reagan to produce his own programme, Mr Mondale declared that, if unchecked, the deficit would produce a post election catastrophe and an "economic Dunkirk" for the US.

His blueprint involves a mixture of tax increases and cuts on domestic and military spending, and is designed to benefit the less well-off, while making the rich bear the major burden. It is also designed to reduce Mr Reagan's big lead in the opinion polls by concentrating the election campaign on issues rather than personalities.

He called on Mr Reagan to stop avoiding the deficit issue. The plan would scrap the MX missile and B1 bomber and the "Star Wars" programme for research into space weapons. Cuts would be made in agriculture and health, while personal and corporate taxes would be increased.

Details, page 6

Dollar rises but pound resilient

The dollar passed another significant landmark when its value rose briefly above three Deutschmarks, during early trading in Far East markets yesterday. But it eased back after the European foreign markets opened as dealers took some profits.

The dollar still closed in London higher than its previous level, against the Deutschmark at 2.9930, up 65 points.

But the pound proved more resilient than other European currencies. Although it fell at one stage to a record low of \$1.2705, it recovered to close 10 points up at \$1.2765.

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Wall Street, page 25

Jenkins pushes for permanent alliance

From Julian Haviland, Political Editor, Buxton

The case for a permanent alliance of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties and for their gradual convergence was urged yesterday by Mr Roy Jenkins, the first leader and principal founder of the SDP.

"We are in this together for good," he said to SDP members in conference at Buxton, Derbyshire. "We have to live ever more closely together, and we must do so in mutual respect and affection."

The identical note was sounded by Mrs Shirley Williams, the party's president, who said that Liberals and Social Democrats needed each other for as far ahead as they could see.

Both speakers were warmly applauded for sentiments which made no concession to Dr David Owen's conviction that the two parties should continue side by side and his emphasis on the SDP's need to maintain a distinct identity.

Mr Jenkins's belief in the logic of an eventual merger was made as plain yesterday as was Dr Owen's dislike of it on Sunday.

While Dr Owen is content to see four national parties at Westminster, Mr Jenkins said the SDP was created to offer the electorate "a massive third force" which, by implication, with the Liberals, might quickly become a second or first force.

He thought that was still possible, but it would not be achieved if they quarrelled with the Liberals.

Mr Jenkins did say he had no wish to see "forced or premature merger", but added that the effectiveness of the Alliance in the eyes of the electorate depended on its being "a union of hearts working permanently together, and not just a temporary arrangement of opportunism and convenience."

Assembly reports, page 4
Leading article, page 15

Patient slog pays off for Welsh gold prospectors

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Behind the doors of a Cardiff bank vault is a jam jar containing the fruit of three years' back-breaking work. Although tinted slightly red, the granules in the jar have the unmistakable glitter of gold.

They have been hard won from the granite rocks of Gwynfynydd mine overlooking the Mawddach Estuary in Gwynedd and represent the biggest gold strike in Britain for years.

When it is made into rings, pendants and trinkets it will have a market value of £137,000.

The find may not trigger off a Klondike-style rush in the Welsh hills, but for those who are bitten by gold fever, a Dolgellau townsmonger is offering pans for sale to prospect for small quantities of the gold dust - carried by mountain streams to the Mawddach River which empties into Cardigan Bay.

Welsh gold had been mined for decades, but big extraction companies have surveyed the area and decided there is not enough to justify mining operations.

Its scarcity value gives it a high market price and its prestige comes from the fact that royal wedding rings are made of it. Its distinctive red tint sets it aside from the South African variety.

Mr Clive Ranger, who sells the gold in his Cardiff and Swansea shops, said: "By world standards, the find is chicken-feed but by British standards it is very considerable."

"The problem is we just can't get enough of it as it is highly prized by the Welsh. Every piece we sell will have a certificate stating it is 100 per cent Welsh gold."

The Cambrian mountains do not yield their gold lightly. Thousands of tons of rocks have

Jail fast in Ulster to back hunger strikers

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Four more "loyalist" prisoners joined a hunger strike at a jail in Co Londonderry yesterday, as more than four hundred inmates in all three of Ulster's prisons began a three-day fast in support of demands for segregation from republican prisoners.

Most prisoners in the province with loyalist paramilitary connections refused breakfast.

The clerk of the Presbyterian Church's general assembly, Mr Jack Weir, visited Magilligan jail in Co Londonderry, where the hunger strike has been in progress for three weeks, and urged the men to end it.

While he was at the prison loyalist sources said that poison had been found there, intended for use against inmates. A spokesman for the Northern Ireland Office said that an unidentified powder had been found in the jail.

The four men from Belfast who began refusing food yesterday bring the total of those on hunger strike to 10, the same number who died in the republican hunger strike in 1981.

The Ulster Defence Association, the largest loyalist paramilitary organization in the province, said that the three-day fast by fellow loyalists was a show of solidarity for the hunger strikers, who are being led by William McQuiston.

There have been fights between loyalist and republican prisoners at Magilligan and claims that loyalists have been attacked with scalding water.

The Rev Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, who visited the jail last week, has sent a letter to the Prime Minister urging her to consider segregation.

Mr Paisley said that his party was opposed to hunger strikes, but the Government had failed to provide protection for loyalist prisoners.

"All that those on hunger strike want is to serve their time in jail in safety", he said.

The Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, Dr Garret FitzGerald, was criticized by the Northern Ireland police authority for saying that most Roman Catholics had lost confidence in the Royal Ulster Constabulary's handling of security matters. The authority said in a statement that his remarks were "unhelpful in the present circumstances".

The diplomat who must deal with Ireland



Three faces of a minister: Mr Hurd's marriage to Miss Judith Smart in 1982; inspecting British troops in Beirut last year; launching a television detector van campaign last October.

Peer with business expertise

Mr David Young, who will become a peer and a minister in the Cabinet without portfolio, still has seven months to run in his three-year term as chairman of the Manpower Services Commission.

At the commission he has been a driving force behind the Government's Youth Training Scheme.

Mr Young, aged 52, and the brother of Mr Stuart Young, chairman of the BBC, will further strengthen the business expertise of Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet.

The other ministerial appointments are:

Lord Gorman, who replaces Lord Cockfield as Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, has been Minister for the Arts since 1983. Educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford, he had been Minister of State in the Department of Employment from 1979 to 1981 and at the Northern Ireland Office from 1981 to 1983.

Mr Giles Shaw, aged 52, had been MP for Pudsey since February, 1974, and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy since 1983.

Mr John Gummer, aged 44, has been MP for Suffolk Coastal since 1983 and represented Eye from 1979 to 1983. He has been chairman of the Conservative Party since 1983.

Lord Elton, aged 54, is a former whip in the House of Lords and has been Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Home Office since 1982.

Mr Rhodes Boyson, aged 59, has represented Brent North since February, 1974. He rose to prominence as headmaster of Highbury Grove comprehensive school from 1967 to 1974. He has been Minister for Social Security since last year.

Mr Alastair Goodlad, aged 41, has been MP for Eddisbury since 1983 and before that represented Northwich, from February, 1974. He became a whip in 1982.

Mr David Hunt, aged 42, has been a member for Wirral since 1976 and became a whip last year. He won the Observer mace in the British universities debating competition in 1966.

Mr Adam Butler, aged 52, son of the late Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, has represented Bosworth since 1970. He was Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mrs Thatcher from 1975 to 1979, having previously served as a Conservative whip.

Lord Avon, aged 53, son of the former Conservative Prime Minister, was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy last year.

Mr Kenneth Baker, aged 49, was elected for Mole Valley last

year, having previously represented St Marylebone from 1970. He was a former Parliamentary Private Secretary to Mr Edward Heath.

Mr Antony Newton, aged 47, has been MP for Braine since 1974 and Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State since 1982.

Mr Peter Bottomley, aged 40, was first elected for Woolwich West in 1975 and has been MP for Eltham since 1983. His wife is also an MP.

Mr Geoffrey Patte, aged 48, was elected for Chertsey and Walton in February, 1974, and has been Minister of State for Defence Procurement since last year.

Mr Raymond Whitney, aged 53, has represented Wycombe since April, 1978, and was appointed Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign Office last year.

Mr Michael Spicer, aged 41, has been MP for Worcestershire South since February, 1974. He is a deputy chairman of the Conservative Party.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, aged 58, became a Government Whip in the Lords last year. He had served as a member of the Lord's Select Committee on Science and Technology.

Mr Ian Stewart, aged 49, was first elected for Hitchin in February, 1974, and has represented Hertfordshire North since last year.

Cabinet reshuffle: the new ministers

The diplomat who must deal with Ireland



Three faces of a minister: Mr Hurd's marriage to Miss Judith Smart in 1982; inspecting British troops in Beirut last year; launching a television detector van campaign last October.

By Stephen Goodwin

Mr Douglas Hurd, the new Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is a man whose background suggests the sensitive touch necessary for the political minefield he now enters.

Before entering politics he was 14 years in the Diplomatic Service with postings to China, the United Nations and Rome.

Nor is Mr Hurd short of experience in departments relevant to the kind of situation he is likely to encounter in Ulster. Since the election of June 1983 he has been

Minister of State at the Home Office and from 1979 to 1983 held the same rank at the Foreign Office.

Mr Hurd, aged 54, is not a man closely associated with Mrs Margaret Thatcher's style of Conservatism. From 1968 to 1974 when he entered Parliament, he was head of Mr Edward Heath's political office.

He nevertheless gained quick preferment under Mrs Thatcher's leadership and was Opposition spokesman on European affairs from 1976 to 1979.

During the first two years of his time in Mr Heath's political office Mr Hurd will have worked with his predecessor as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, who was then Mr Heath's Parliamentary Private Secretary.

Mr Hurd was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge. After his Diplomatic Service, 1952 to 1966, he joined the Conservative Research Department, and was later private secretary to Mr Heath, then Leader of the Opposition, from 1968 to 1970.

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Men in hot seat before Hurd

The British politicians who have been given the task of wrestling with the recent troubles in Northern Ireland before Mr Hurd are:

James Callaghan, 1967-70: With Harold Wilson, agreed to send in the troops, August 14, 1969. "It is the easiest thing in the world to send the troops in, but it will be the devil of a job to get them out again."

Reginald Maudling, 1970-72: Backed internment. Bloody Sunday, 13 people shot dead by soldiers. "God, what a bloody awful country, a large Scotch please."

William Whitelaw, 1972-73: First Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. Met Provisional IRA in London.

Bloody Friday, 13 people killed in terrorist attacks in Belfast. Operation Motorman, security forces entered no-go areas. Introduced special category status for prisoners belonging to paramilitary groups.

Francis Pym, 1973-74: Involved in Sunningdale Conference, setting up power sharing executive.

Marilyn Rees, 1974-76: Ulster workers strike ends power sharing executive. Ends internment. Decides to phase out special category status. Birmingham public house bombs. Provisional IRA ceasefire.

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NHS losing cash to private hospitals

By Nicholas Timmins

Health authorities are losing hundreds of thousands of pounds in income from health service pay beds as consultants and patients switch to the growing number of private hospitals.

The Central Birmingham Health Authority has seen its income drop by £400,000 and pay-bed use fall by 35 per cent, contributing to £800,000 overspending last year.

In Kent, the Canterbury and Thanet health authority has seen its income drop by £300,000 to £133,000 since the Chaucer Hospital, run by American Medical International, opened.

In Peterborough, where some consultants have a financial stake in a new 44-bed private hospital managed by the British United Provident Association, private income has fallen from £400,000 a year to £60,000.

The fall in private patient income has come in a number of cases at the same time as last year's mid-year reduction in health service spending, adding to financial difficulties.

With many pay beds mixed with ordinary NHS beds rather than in separate wings, health authorities that lose private patients are still faced with much the same overheads in heating, lighting and staffing.

Tomorrow the West Midlands regional health authority is being asked to approve an extra £300,000 during three years in an effort to make up the loss in private income.

At Peterborough, the authority has closed its private ward. It is now being used as part of a radiotherapy suite, although Mr Allan Williamson, the district treasurer, said the sudden loss of income "caused a lot of problems".

Observer out of NGA case

The Observer has withdrawn from a legal action by Fleet Street employers against the National Graphical Association, in which they seek £2.6m damages for stoppages last December.

Mr Brian Nicholson, joint managing director, said: "We have decided that, in the general interests of labour relations on our newspaper and the long-term relations of the industry, we should withdraw the action."

They have indicated their desire to continue with the case due to be heard in the High Court on November 12.

£½ m food aid for Ethiopia

Oxfam yesterday allocated £500,000 - the biggest single grant in its 40-year history - towards the immediate purchase of 10,000 tonnes of grain to alleviate starvation in Ethiopia.

The charity's overseas director, Mr Michael Harris, said: "Oxfam has been obliged to make this gesture because of the failure of governments with grain surpluses to send adequate aid".

Ten years on, page 9

Lord Tonypandy takes a rest

Lord Tonypandy, aged 75, the former Speaker of the House of Commons, who is suffering from throat cancer, has cancelled his many speaking and lay preaching engagements on medical advice.

He emphasized yesterday that this did not indicate any deterioration in his condition. He has been told that his daily treatment as an outpatient will take two months and that he must rest his voice for some time afterwards. "I am remaining hopeful," he said.

Rape charge remand

A man and a woman were remanded in custody for nine days by magistrates at Aberdeen, Mid-Clackmannan, yesterday, in connection with the alleged rape of a girl aged 16 two weeks ago.

The man, a garage worker aged 34, is charged with raping the girl, and the woman, aged 36, with aiding and abetting rape.

Murder charge

Patrick Lawlor, aged 36, of no settled address, was remanded in custody for a week by Reading magistrates yesterday charged with murdering his four sons in a fire at their home in Caversham, Reading, on April 17.

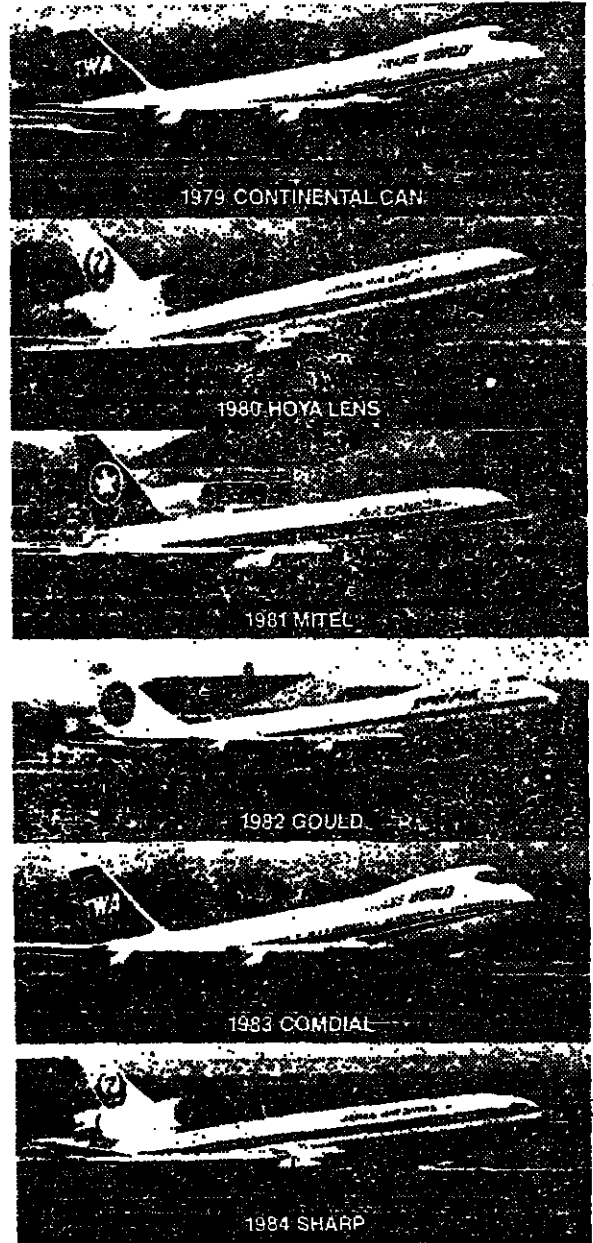
NCP deal

The National Breakdown Recovery Club, which has 250,000 members, has been taken over by National Car Parks.

Correction

Coking coal discharged from the Onia at Ravenscroft was not Polish, as stated on August 28.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia £6.00, Canada £5.00, Hong Kong £5.00, India £5.00, Japan £5.00, New Zealand £5.00, Singapore £5.00, South Africa £5.00, Sweden £5.00, Switzerland £5.00, Taiwan £5.00, Thailand £5.00, USA £5.00, West Germany £5.00, Yugoslavia £5.00.



How soon will you land up in Wales?

I'm thinking of relocating my existing business/establishing a new one. Tell me why it would take off in Wales.

Name _____
Position _____
Company _____
Address _____
Tel. No. _____

WDA
Wales Development Agency
PO, BOX 100, GREYFRIARS ROAD, CARDIFF CF1 1WJ. TEL: CARDIFF (0222) 329955.

Pickets' weapons go on display

Hospital food poisoning spread by beef left out on warm day

From Craig Seton, Wakefield

Cooked beef taken from a refrigerator and left for 10 hours in a kitchen and a ward on a warm day was responsible for the spread of the salmonella outbreak at the Stanley Royd psychiatric hospital in Wakefield, but the source of the original infection is still unknown.

The number of deaths reported since the food poisoning outbreak remained yesterday at 26, although laboratory tests on samples from 17 dead patients showed only 10 proved positive for salmonella infection.

No new suspected cases were officially reported yesterday. The number of patients suffering from salmonella-type symptoms was 14 - eight fewer than on Sunday - although seven are still seriously ill.

Officials refused yesterday to comment on a new report that four suspected cases of food poisoning are now being treated at the neighbouring Pinderfields Hospital. They said any comment would be made today.

Two hurt in Eton blaze on eve of term

Two women jumped for their lives from a first-floor window to escape a fire at Westbury House, Eton College, at 3am yesterday.

Miss Ann Hughes and Miss Lynne Cuthbertson, domestic workers at the dormitory, were taken to hospital with leg and ankle injuries.

The housemaster, Mr Richard Quibell, his wife Sue, and their two sons, aged nine and 15, were asleep and were among those moved out along with the House matron and other staff.

The headmaster, Dr Eric Anderson, said: "Naturally I am relieved that it happened during the holidays rather than term time. There were no boys or students in the house at the time, the new term does not start until Wednesday."

He said the fire had destroyed two rooms in the staff quarters, but the boys' accommodation was not damaged. "So there's no reason why they cannot return later this week," he said.

Normally 50 boys, aged between 13 and 18, live in the house, one of the schools' 25 boarding houses.

More than 20 firemen fought the fire for nearly three hours. It is believed to have been started by a fault in a television set or by a discarded cigarette end.

Charities get more calls for clothing

By Nicholas Timmins
Social Services Correspondent

The type of poverty which existed 50 years ago is resurfacing today with children unable to go to school because they have no shoes, a report from two charities said.

Changes in social security and local education authority rules, and the rise in the numbers of people dependent on supplementary benefit have led to increasing calls on charities for help with shoes and clothing, the report from the Family Welfare Association and the Child Poverty Action Group said.

Grants given for children's clothing by the association rose by 400 per cent in the three years to 1982/83, and other charities were facing similar pressures, the report said.

Changes in social security rules that applied tighter conditions to clothing claims in 1980 led to a fall from 360,000 special supplementary benefit payments for clothing in 1979 to 71,000 in 1982, at a time when the numbers dependent on supplementary benefit rose from 4.4 million to more than seven million, the report said.

Local education authorities have reduced school uniform grants in many cases, the report said, and the unemployed who only receive the lower rate of supplementary benefit were having increasing difficulty in coping.

Carrying the Cure: CPAG and FWA (1, Macklin Street, London WC2E 1SL).



Mr and Mrs Compton and their daughter with the new baby (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Daughter for Denis Compton at 66

Denis Compton, who swept, hooked and cover-drove his way to 123 first-class centuries - 18 of them in one record-breaking season - celebrating a novel career-best figures of five for 66.

Christine, aged 40, on Wednesday.

Mr Compton, who was 66 in May, said yesterday his wife was tired but delighted and he felt "terrific". He added: "I suppose I am much too old but I shall just take it as it comes. I am going to forget about the disadvantages and enjoy it while I can. The baby is gorgeous. I could have put her in a beauty contest and she would have walked away with it."

How wrecked cars are still used

By Tony Samstag

About a third of the 16 million privately registered cars and vans in Britain could be back on the road after a serious accident without the authorities being aware that they had been damaged.

This potentially lethal loophole in licensing and insurance procedures came to light yesterday through the news that the Metropolitan Police are investigating the discovery of parts of a red Ford Sierra wrecked by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader in a motorway crash last year.

A spokesman for Mr Kinnock said he had been approached by a senior Scotland Yard officer in June to discuss an apparent illegal recycling.

There was no question of Mr Kinnock himself having had anything further to do with the car after it was towed away from the crash by the insurance company.

The loophole that makes it possible for a badly damaged car to be patched up and resold, without the licence holder being aware of the accident, arises from the reliance of the vehicle licensing centre at Swansea on reports from insurance companies.

When a car covered by comprehensive insurance is written off, either because it is considered too expensive to repair or is too badly damaged to be repaired at any price, the insurer issues a "serious damage report" which is fed into the computer at Swansea.

If the car is subsequently re-registered, the licensing centre alerts the local police, who may call on the owner to check that the car is roadworthy and has been acquired legally.

But only two-thirds of privately registered cars carry comprehensive insurance. For those covered only by third-party policies, insurance companies are not involved in damage claims and owners are under no legal obligation to notify Swansea of a serious crash. Such cars can vanish (and reappear) relatively easily.

The salvage trade in write-offs is big business. One of the larger motor insurers, Norwich Union, sells about 5,000 cars as salvage or scrap each year. If the average price were £500, that would be worth £2.5m. As Norwich Union has about 6 per cent of the market, the national total would be nearly £42m.

The Automobile Association, which estimates that 50,000 write-offs will be returned to the roads this year through second-hand car dealers, repeated its advice yesterday that would-be purchasers should get a qualified engineer to check any cars they contemplate buying.

Probably the most lucrative illegal use of a write-off is the recycling of number plates and identification discs in a stolen car of a similar model. This is thought to be the reason for the Metropolitan Police's interest in Mr Kinnock's Sierra.

Winning wine

An English wine from Pulham Vineyards, Norfolk, beat 38 wines from 25 countries to win the gold medal at an international tasting in London yesterday.

School bus crash

Eight children were taken to hospital with slight injuries yesterday after two school coaches were in a head-on collision near Gawcott, Buckinghamshire.

Daughter freed

Luise Legemah, aged 16, of Datchet Road, Cardiff, was cleared on the direction of the judge at the Central Criminal Court yesterday of murdering her father, Albert Legemah, aged 52, with a baseball bat.

Soldier jailed

A British soldier, Karl Smith, aged 21, who became addicted to cocaine while serving in West Germany, was given a three-year jail sentence at the Central Criminal Court yesterday. He admitted robbing two west London off-licence owners of £200 while armed with an imitation pistol. He spent the money on drugs.

Council donkeys

Sheffield City Council has bought six donkeys to take children for rides in the city's parks. Councillors will decide this week whether to offer the rides free or make a small charge.

Fish killed

Hundreds of fish, including trout, died after Henmore Brook, near Ashbourne, Derbyshire, turned bright orange from deposits believed to have been washed from rocks in heavy rain.

Road inquiry

A public inquiry into the proposed M1-A1 link road between the junction of the M1 and M6 at Catthorpe and the A604 near Huntingdon, starts at Kettering, Northamptonshire, today.

Plane recovered

The wreckage of a Hurricane fighter which crashed in a field at Terrington St John, Norfolk, in March, 1941, has been recovered by the Fenland Aircraft Preservation Society, the society's fifth. The pilot, Sergeant R. W. Read, bailed out safely.

Teacher accused

Mr Richard Catherwood, aged 38, a supply teacher with the Inner London Education Authority, will appear in court on Monday accused of supplying LSD and cannabis at his home in Melbourne Grove, East Dulwich on June 15, and other drugs charges.

Greene tribute

Greene King and Sons, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, are brewing 100,000 bottles of a special light ale to celebrate the birthday of Mr Graham Greene, the novelist whose family links with the firm go back to the eighteenth century.

Proposal to replace car tax attacked

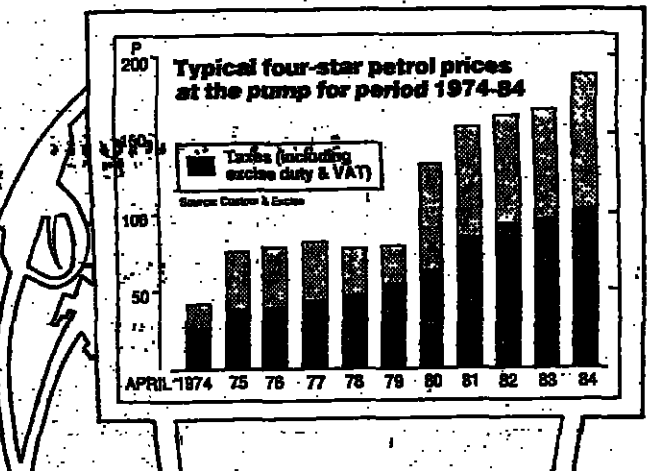
By David Cross

The motor and oil industries yesterday criticized any suggestion that road taxes should be scrapped in favour of a substantial rise in petrol prices.

The department of Transport has disclosed that the existing Vehicle Excise Duty could be abolished by increasing the tax on petrol by at least 34p a gallon. The move would enable the Government to catch road tax dodgers at present estimated to be defrauding it of up to £174m a year.

However, a Department spokesman said yesterday that the Government had no plans to replace road taxes with a surcharge on petrol; the figures had been worked out in response to a request from the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts for possible options to the present system.

The Automobile Association said it was "very strongly opposed" to any such change.



An increase in petrol taxes would hit high-mileage road users unfairly.

Moreover, motorists would still have to pay a small vehicle registration fee, which future governments would be free to increase at will, without any corresponding cut in the petrol tax.

The Motor Agents Association, which represents 14,000 garage owners, said that petrol sales would fall sharply if taxes were raised by between 30p and 40p a gallon. The average petrol station would be paying an extra £2,000 for each delivery of oil, he said.

Oil companies were already reported to be discussing a new petrol increase of up to 6p a gallon, the amount they claim to be losing on every gallon.

The idea of raising petrol taxes to prevent road tax evasion was last rejected by the Government in 1979.

Weight-watching diet sheet for home computers

By Bill Johnston
Technology Correspondent

Weight-watchers and others concerned about their diet are expected to be attracted to a novel computer program published by the Consumers' Association and the programming company, Acornsoft.

Watch Your Weight, a program designed to run on BBC and Electron home computers, allows the user to determine his individual health diet. It has information on the caloric value of most foods, enabling the user to calculate the calories in any menu.

The user's ideal weight is determined by a chart based on sex, age and height. The consumers' association says: "You may well be a bit plump or not quite the right shape, but the important thing is that any excess weight you are carrying around is not affecting your health badly."

The programme helps the weight-watcher monitor food intake and plan weight-loss by setting a goal weight to be achieved in a given period. A number of options are offered to achieve the target.

The program is an extension of the Consumers' Association publishing activities of *Which?* magazine. Other titles include home finance programs and two versions of *Taxcalc*, based on the *Which?* Tax Saving Guide.

A program to help determine fitness levels, based on blood pressure, pulse rate and other measurements is one of several programs planned by the association.

Seaside rapist assaulted six victims in eight years

A man who admitted six rapes, indecent assault and attempted rape was jailed for life at Chelmsford Crown Court yesterday. His victims were aged between 15 and 47.

John Eddie, aged 31, an unemployed engineer, of Keith Way, Prittlewell, Essex, attacked women in Southend, Essex, during an eight-year period. His first attack was in 1976.

All the assaults were within three miles of Southend seafront. As most of the victims had attended night clubs, he became known as the "Disco Rapist".

Eddie admitted raping two girls aged 15 and 17, two girls aged 16 and two women aged 45 and 47.

He admitted causing grievous bodily harm to a woman aged 23, whose nose and cheekbone were broken, and attempting to rape her. He also admitted robbing three of his victims and indecently assaulting another.

He was jailed for life for the rapes and given concurrent sentences of two years for indecent assault, five years for robbery, six years for attempted rape, and 10 years for causing grievous bodily harm.

He was told by Judge Greenwood: "You have been a monster to these unfortunate women, some young and some not so young, like a monster."

Mr Andrew Munday, for Eddie, said that, in spite of the horrendous nature of the offences, Eddie was a diligent husband and a caring and responsible father. "He described his actions as filthy and behaving like an animal," Mr Munday said.

● A rapist who copied acts he had seen in pornographic magazines was sentenced yesterday to four years of youth custody.

Paul Lowther, aged 19, of Paddock Close, Hoddeston, Hertsfordshire, pleaded guilty at St Albans Crown Court to two charges of rape and one of indecent assault. His victim was a teenage nanny aged 17.

Murder charge

A man charged with the murder of a woman in a car crash yesterday.

NCP deal

A deal struck between the NCP and the government regarding the sale of shares.

Correction

A correction to a previous article regarding the NCP deal.

Gateway Gold Star Account.

Jenkins warning against quarrels

Reports from John Winder, Sheila Beardsall, and Barbara Day

The Social Democratic Party should not be itself into constitutional knots by seeking a forced or premature merger with the Liberals, although the effectiveness of the Alliance depended on there being a union of hearts working permanently together, and not just a temporary arrangement of opportunism and convenience.

Shortly after that contribution to the debate on the progress of the alliance between the two parties Mr Roy Jenkins, founder-leader of the SDP, was given a long standing ovation at the party's assembly yesterday at Buxton, Derbyshire.

He said that the objective from the beginning had been not to establish a fringe party manoeuvring between the fixed banks of the two traditional parties, using the Liberals when they needed them and lurching off on their own when they felt they did not.

"It was not for that limited objective that we were created, but to create a massive third force and quickly to become a second or first force."

"I believe that possibility is still there, but we shall not achieve it if we quarrel with our Liberal allies."

There could be no SDP victory without Liberal votes. "We must live together in mutual respect and affection. On that basis and on no other can we offer the country the alternative it deserves."

Earlier, Mr Jenkins had said that the party was opposed to any action to bring down the Government by any undemocratic means, but was nevertheless dedicated to getting rid of Mrs Thatcher at the earliest possible moment.

The decision to appoint Mr MacGregor as chairman of the coal board, the apothecy of ideological appointments, had been a crass error. It was a determined piece of wrong-headedness which has brought predictable results.

"Of course Mr Scargill wanted a strike from the moment he became president of the NUM, but that was not a reason for giving him what he wanted and had hitherto failed to achieve."

Any of the past three chairmen of the coal board could have secured the closure of the necessary collieries without giving Mr Scargill the lever to mount a strike.

If Mr Scargill was allowed to win it would be a blow against union democracy and a victory for intolerable intimidation and violence. It would complete the undermining of moderate union leadership which Mrs Thatcher had done so much to weaken by her masterstroke at GCHQ.

Leading article, page 15

Today's debates
Today's assembly business includes debates on environment policy and competitiveness in the social market economy. In the afternoon there are debates on industrial relations, youth policy, the sinking of the Belgrano, and party policymaking.



Dr Owen (left) and Mr Rodgers (right) applauding Mrs Williams after her address yesterday (Photograph by Brian Harris).

We need Liberals, Williams tells delegates

The Social Democratic Party and the Liberals would need each other for as far ahead as could be seen, Mrs Shirley Williams, president of the SDP, said in her speech to the assembly.

To sustained applause she said "We have agreed to draw up common policies for the next election. Ours is not an alliance of expediency but a lasting alliance of principle."

She said that divided the parties could not prevail in a harsh political climate. Their relationship had grown closer and stronger in the past year. They had agreed on procedures for shortlisting candidates and had already selected nearly 100.

"The media declare that David Owen is now a one-man band," she said. "The barber shop quartet has been replaced by a soloist and a fan club. But that isn't an accurate account."

"The SDP has abundant talent in the ranks of its MPs and previous MPs, the

council, and its members. I have no doubt that the SDP with its Liberal allies could form a government more gifted than any since the administrations of Attlee or of Lloyd George."

She said that opponents had tried to divide Dr Owen and Mr David Steel and had suggested one was overshadowing the other.

"They would, wouldn't they - our opponents," she said. "For the evidence that able and ambitious politicians can work together for the common good is exactly what the public wants and its appeal is immensely powerful."

On the miners' strike, she said that if it resulted in the destruction of a civil and unarmed police force which had public support then it was an almost unforgivable price to pay.

She said that Mr Arthur Scargill had much bigger aims than winning the strike. He wanted to make Britain over

to the image of the societies he most admired, which were found east of the Iron Curtain.

"It is not even clear that Mr Scargill even wants a negotiated settlement. As for Mr MacGregor, he has taken refuge in a plastic bag. He ought to be in the dangers of suffocation."

At the TUC Mr Neil Kinnock had deserved credit for at least condemning violence on the picket lines.

She added: "But Neil Kinnock must have wondered why, if Arthur Scargill could command his pickets to restrain themselves at Brighton, he apparently cannot do so at Bilton Glen or Port Talbot."

Miners were not stupid and had not all been brainwashed. They saw in many areas a desert containing one oasis of jobs, the local pit. If that went, there was nothing. To the agenda of the strike talks should be added the

creation of new jobs when a pit had to close.

Turning to the economy, she said: "Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaks of the country's recovery being on course. Whose recovery? The manufacturing workers? The dairy farmers? The shipyard? The growing conscript armies of the poor? Whose recovery, Mr Lawson? Yours and your Government's and a few people in the City."

Britain was the most secretive democracy in the world and that secrecy was becoming dangerously obsessive. National security must not be equated with the saving of ministerial face.

"What issue of national security hung on Sarah Threlkelly's revelations? Let alone the shabby winged ministers demanded to avoid the sinking of the Belgrano?"

Victory for Scargill 'must be denied'

Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP, said that if Mr Arthur Scargill and the NUM leadership were allowed to claim that the union had budgeted the Government into conceding its terms, the present working miners would be the first in the queue for redundancy.

Answering a question about the SDP leadership's view of the strike, Dr Owen said that the closure of Cornewood had been conducted in a way damaging to the trust of the miners, but the nub of the issue was uncomprovised.

They should not duck the reality that 15 per cent of the mining industry was providing £330m of its loss-making.

"Although we always want an

amelioration and compromise to find a middle way, there are some people with whom it is almost impossible to reach a compromise" (applause). Dr Owen added that Mr Scargill was very close to being that.

"I do not want a settlement at any price out of these talks and I urge you to think about the 55,000 miners who have been working throughout, the dispute and the consequences for them and how life will be if they go back into the pits against the background of Arthur Scargill, Mick McGahey, and their cohorts being able to claim that they have budgeted the Government to concede their demand. The first in the queue for redundancy would be those who have been working over the past six months."

The SDP was committed to maintaining realistic levels of spending on education while implementing radical change in the system, Mrs Fiona Beckett, a member of the Council for Social Democracy, said when opening a debate on education.

She contrasted that commitment with the Government's demand for further cuts in a service already pared to the bone while claiming to put a premium on self-improvement and with the Labour Party's promises of money and no real change.

She wanted the message to go out that Social Democrats were prepared to invest in education.

She proposed a motion condemning the Government's education policy and reaffirming the SDP's

Party pledge to spend on education and to change the system

commitment to negotiate expenditure and increase spending in order to broaden access to education, raise standards, invest in the development of mathematical, scientific, and technical skills, and create an integrated system of education and training.

As well as being an eminent industrialist, Sir Alastair has been one of the most successful inventors of the past 30 years. He led the team which perfected the float glass process for manufacturing flat glass, thereby revolutionizing an industry.

Yesterday he drew on that experience in proposing measures to halt industrial decline. But he left no doubt that the way ahead was long and difficult.

His speech, entitled "Understanding and Application", asked why "as a nation we fall short in our ability to apply the results of our understanding to achieve success".

Sir Alastair said: "Gaps in industrial performance between

The motion as amended was carried unanimously.

The Prime Minister was a woman who dispensed her own sex, Mrs P. J. Hughes said when moving the motion on a policy for women. She added: "How ironic that it should be the first woman Prime Minister that set back the cause of women's rights by decades."

The motion called for tax relief of up to £15 a child a week for working parents, the setting up of family centres, special activities for school-age children after school hours, and a carer's charter. It also called for a reform of tax and benefits systems to give men and women equality.

The motion was agreed to.

It is ironic that the party which began with a passion for collective leadership should now be obsessed by the fear that it sounds like a one-man band.

Mrs Shirley Williams was at pains to belie the charge in her presidential address to the SDP Assembly at Buxton yesterday. Not was that the only occasion when she or other speakers showed themselves to be sensitive to the allegation.

To a large extent it is unfair that just when Dr David Owen has made the personal breakthrough that the Social Democrats desperately needed he should be accused of hogging the show.

How could he have done otherwise if he was to make the national impact that he has in the House of Commons and in the country, in little more than a year as party leader? What else did anyone expect from the leader of a party with only six MPs at the beginning of this parliament, and which still boasts no more than seven?

Cabinet experience in the wings

It was not David Owen's fault that Mrs Williams, Mr William Rodgers, and other members of substance lost their seats at the general election.

One of the most impressive features of the SDP when it was first established was the wealth of ministerial experience in its ranks. Soon all four of its former cabinet ministers were together in the Commons, Mrs Williams and Mr Roy Jenkins winning by-election to replace Dr Owen and Mr Rodgers. Sitting alongside them were former junior ministers as well as experienced backbenchers.

Now only Dr Owen and Mr Jenkins, of the parliamentary party, are former cabinet ministers, while Mr Robert MacLennan is the only former junior minister left. As the previous leader of the SDP who is not quite on the same wavelength as Dr Owen, Mr Jenkins is understandably not so active as he was.

It was therefore very necessary for the SDP that Dr Owen should fill the vacuum. It was unavoidable that the media should turn to him time and again as the only natural spokesman for his party. Had he modestly declined and tried to push forward other Social Democrats, television and radio producers would often simply have turned elsewhere.

Nor does any other Social Democrat command the attention of the House of Commons as he does. What has been remarkable is not that Dr Owen is the only Social Democrat from whom much has been heard over the past year, but that so much has been heard from him. Of all the opposition party leaders his personal performance has been by far the most impressive.

Yet there is something to the criticism. Dr Owen is in the position of a star batsman who

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

has been given the captaincy in recognition of his batting rather than because of his ability to handle the team. His batting has improved with the responsibility, but he has yet to raise the team's performance. It would be no help for him to drop himself in the batting order, but he might think a bit more about how to manage the bowling.

The analogy is not so far-fetched as most sporting metaphors in politics because the batsman that persists about Dr Owen is whether, as a brilliant individualist, he recognizes how much British politics is a team game.

Dr Owen has a considerable knowledge of American politics, and there is a sense in which he operates more in the style of an American than a British politician.

In the United States personality counts for more than party - otherwise President Reagan, as the candidate of the minority party, would not be such a hot favourite to be re-elected in November. The loner who builds a personal following can get to the top there.

Politician can rise only with party

But in this country a politician can rise only with his party. The strong leader of a weak party is doomed to be one of the romantic failures of British politics. If Dr Owen is to escape that fate he should now have two priorities.

It has been necessary for him to project himself as he has over the past year, but there is the suspicion that he knows no other style of leadership. He needs to dissolve that suspicion by creating an atmosphere in which other people of calibre are able and eager to give of their best.

His second priority should be to get Mrs Williams and Mr Rodgers back into the House of Commons as quickly as possible. That will not be easy. No by-election is pending and Dr Owen cannot simply choose the candidate when there is one. But he badly needs the party's other heavyweights beside him in the Commons.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION ● Presidential address ● Pill for men

Education system blamed for decline

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

British education is designed neither to help the individual to lead a full life nor to help the nation to hold its own in a competitive world, according to Sir Alastair Pilkington. This draconian diagnosis was given last night in a presidential address marking the opening of the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, in Norwich.

As well as being an eminent industrialist, Sir Alastair has been one of the most successful inventors of the past 30 years. He led the team which perfected the float glass process for manufacturing flat glass, thereby revolutionizing an industry.

Yesterday he drew on that experience in proposing measures to halt industrial decline. But he left no doubt that the way ahead was long and difficult.

His speech, entitled "Understanding and Application", asked why "as a nation we fall short in our ability to apply the results of our understanding to achieve success".

Sir Alastair said: "Gaps in industrial performance between this country and others such as the US and Japan remain wide and continue to widen. We are evidently not winning with applied science."

He presented the latest findings of the European Management Forum's investigation into international competitiveness. The performance of 22 industrial countries was analysed. Japan was in front followed by Switzerland, the US and West Germany in that order.

The United Kingdom was number 14 on the list, having slipped from second place to the United States in 1950.

Progress towards a male Pill

There is renewed interest in the development of a male contraceptive pill using gossypol, a compound derived from the cotton plant.

Gossypol is the only molecule that comes close to providing a male pill. Its properties for causing infertility were discovered more than 15 years ago in China, but the compound was not reliable.

Recent research has shown that there are two forms of this compound and others such as the US and Japan remain wide and continue to widen. We are evidently not winning with applied science."

His diagnosis included two conditions that needed treatment. He called one "a false idea of respectability" and the other "inflexibility". He said the "respectability order" went a long way back to the landed gentry. But the attitude persisted that it was less respectable to be a scientist, rather than to follow one of the other professions.

But he advised aspiring young scientists and engineers against becoming trapped in a specialist cul-de-sac. He suggested that individuals making a career in industry should make a first move sideways

before 30 years of age, into technical or marketing, for example. That sort of job provided a broader perspective and it should give a person a greater ability to make other moves.

Sharpest criticism was reserved for an artificial separation between education and training. He said that went back to the medieval monasteries and guilds. The monasteries looked after the three Rs and the guilds training.

"This country holds on to this separation more tightly than other countries and this is particularly damaging to those whose talents are not recognised by exams", he asserted.

He said float glass was brought to success by partnership between many groups: chemists, physicists, glass technologists, engineers, production and marketing men, lawyers and patent agents. It was interdependence and a commitment to the same goal that succeeded. Unjustified status differences were removed, employees had the flexibility to do a wide range of tasks, and the management style was based on openness and involvement.

Whitehall brief

A Civil Service resistant to change

By Peter Hennessy

To work in Whitehall these days is not to live in an open society where dissent and discussion are encouraged. The Official Secrets Act of 1911, if frequently used is any guide, has become the dominant legislative legacy of the Asquith administration which was, ironically, Britain's last Liberal government.

It was all the more surprising, therefore, to find at York University last week a Whitehall duo who, with official permission, delivered in public a sharp critique of the Civil Service culture and its resistance to managerial reforms dear to the Prime Minister's heart.

The authors of the paper, "The impact of the efficiency strategy: political clout or cultural change?" were Professor Les Metcalfe, recently a member of the Civil Service College now at the European

Institute of Public Administration in Maastricht, and Ms Sue Richards, a senior lecturer at the college.

The Metcalfe-Richards thesis, delivered to a conference of academics and civil servants, reduced to its essentials, was that Mrs Margaret Thatcher's political clout, formidable though it is, may not achieve a lasting managerial revolution unless the century-old culture of our permanent career Civil Service is changed as well.

In a section worthy of the pen of Sir John Hoskyns, director-general of the Institute of Directors, Mrs Thatcher's former senior policy adviser and an astute critic of what he calls "the Whitehall failure", Professor Metcalfe and Ms Richards described the "disbelief system" which prevents the senior Civil Service from absorbing the more sophisticated parts of recent

management thinking and reduces their concept of the subject to the efficient discharge of routine tasks.

According to the Metcalfe-Richards paper, the Whitehall disbelief system manifests itself in three forms: ● extreme scepticism about proposals for restructuring organizations;

● the belief that reforms fail; ● the refusal to take seriously management concepts and ideas which address broader or longer-term initiatives.

Another feature of the disbelief system often used to insulate our "permanent politicians" from criticism, which Professor Metcalfe and Ms Richards did not mention, is Whitehall's failure to play the man in the hall. Instead of confronting a critique, the qualifications of the critic are usually called into question.

Thus Sir John Hoskyns is

dismissed as a businessman obsessed with systems analysis and computer whose spell in No 10 was too brief to impose reality.

Metcalfe and Ms Richards could be dismissed as temporary arrivals brought in from the academic world (the London Business School and Newcastle Polytechnic, respectively).

That would be unfair - Professor Metcalfe has served in the Prime Minister's Efficiency Unit and Ms Richards in the Treasury - and nobody tried it at York. Indeed, there was a high degree of receptiveness and an honest recognition from officials present that it is too early to judge if the efficiency strategy, designed for Mrs Thatcher by Lord Rayner and being carried through by Sir Robin Ibb, her second efficiency adviser, really has bitten into the 100-year culture in a permanent fashion.

RUSSIANS FIRE MISGUIDED MARSHAL.

Nevilswweek

Purge In the Kremlin

ON SALE NOW

Outside views. Inside information.

The plane truth from British Airways.

BRITISH

BA sets sights on UK charters



TRAVEL TRADE GAZETTE, SEPT 7 1984.

Last weekend a group of charter airlines published an advertisement to warn the Government of British Airways' ambitions.

We said that unless a privatised British Airways was restrained, it could use its "monopoly profits" from scheduled services to start cut-throat pricing against the charter airlines.

So that, as well as their scheduled service monopoly, British Airways would end up with a charter monopoly as well.

British Airways' Chief Executive was reported in The Observer as saying our campaign was "wildly inaccurate".

Last week the Travel Trade Gazette, however, revealed British Airways' ambitions. It reported last week:

"British Airways' Chief Executive, Colin Marshall, has singled out the British charter market as a major area of growth for the carrier."

If this competition was on a fair basis, the charter airlines would welcome it.

But unless the Government makes sure British Airways can't fund that competition by their "monopoly profits", then it won't be fair.

We hope that the briefing papers for today's Cabinet meeting to discuss this include last week's Travel Trade Gazette.

That's one mouthful from British Airways they should listen to.

Mondale unveils programme to avert 'economic Dunkirk'

From Nicholas Ashford, Philadelphia

Warning that the huge federal budget deficit could produce a "post-election catastrophe" and an "economic Dunkirk", Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic presidential candidate, unveiled a detailed plan yesterday for reducing the deficit by two-thirds by 1989 and challenging President Reagan to produce his own programme.

Mr Mondale's blueprint, involving a mixture of tax increases and cuts on domestic and military spending, would reduce the deficit to \$160bn (£66bn) by 1989, compared with the \$263bn by estimated by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.

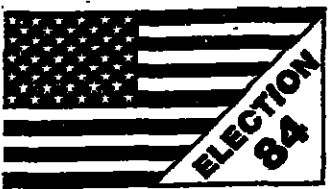
The Administration's own estimate for the 1989 deficit is \$162bn compared with a projected \$172bn for the current year. This has been challenged as being unrealistic by many independent economists.

In presenting a pledge made at the Democratic Convention, in July that he would produce a realistic deficit-reduction programme before the election, he held "Today I am revealing to the American people," he told a televised press conference.

He was also seeking to reduce President Reagan's huge lead in the opinion polls by concentrating the election debate on issues rather than personalities. The Mondale camp believes the federal deficit is a chink in the President's armour which they can exploit.

The main elements of the Mondale plan are as follows (for fiscal 1989):

- \$25bn would be saved by restricting the increase in defence spending to between 3 per cent and 4 per cent a year. The MX missile, and the B1 bomber would be scrapped.



would President Reagan's "Star Wars" proposal for research and development into space weapons.

- Cuts in domestic programmes (mainly health and agriculture) would produce savings of \$21bn.
- Reduction in interest payments, \$45bn.
- Increase in personal taxes, \$45bn.
- Increase in corporation taxes, \$25bn.
- Other tax enhancements, \$14bn.

Mr Mondale also proposed increasing spending on certain domestic programmes - cut by President Reagan, such as food stamps and child nutrition schemes, by \$30bn.

One of the key features of the package is that money raised by increasing taxes would be placed in a special deficit reduction "trust fund" and would not be used to finance new programmes.

This is intended to protect Mr Mondale from renewed charges by President Reagan that he is merely proposing a repetition of the "tax, tax, spend, spend" policies of previous Democratic administrations.

"Every penny of new revenues will go into that fund," Mr Mondale declared, adding that any new programmes will be based on the principle of "pay-as-you-go".

Arguing that the less well-off had had to bear most of the burden of President Reagan's economic programmes, Mr Mondale said that the bulk of his proposed tax increases would fall on the shoulders of the rich.

The half of the population earning \$25,000 or less would pay no extra taxes. The wealthiest 14 per cent, who would be subjected to a 10 per cent surcharge on incomes of over \$100,000 (for married couples), would carry 75 per cent of the new burden.

The proposed rises in corporation taxes are aimed in particular at the 90,000 companies which Mr Mondale claims make use of loopholes and other dodges to pay no tax at all.

Answering questions from journalists, Mr Mondale conceded that it was unusual for a presidential candidate to campaign on a platform of increased taxes. However, he argued that whoever wins in November will

have to raise taxes in order to reduce the deficit and that the real question to be answered was "who will have to pay the increases?"

"My budget is fair to the most vulnerable people in our society, who bore the brunt of Mr Reagan's budget cuts. And it is fair to the average-income families, who got no relief from Mr Reagan's tax cuts."

He called on Mr Reagan to stop avoiding the deficit issue. "You can't hide your red ink with blue smoke and mirrors. Let's tell the truth about the future," he declared.

Mondale sides admitted their candidate was taking a calculated risk in presenting such a detailed budget plan at this stage in the campaign.

However, they said it was part of a broader offensive designed to define the Mondale candidacy as rooted in issues about which Mr Reagan has little knowledge or concern.

They pointed out that last week Mr Mondale had successfully challenged President Reagan's record on arms control. This week he will go on to deal in more detail with other economic issues.

Mr Mondale said that if nothing was done to reduce the deficit the national debt would double by 1989. Interest rate repayments would increase by \$100bn, trade and industry would be "dlobbered" and long-term economic growth would be undermined. "To do nothing about it is to commit suicide in slow motion," he declared.



Church and state: The Pope, with Mr René Lévesque, the Quebec Premier, looking on, waves to the crowds before entering the Quebec museum on the second day of his visit.

'Give arms cash to sick'

From John Best, Ottawa

The Pope pleaded with world leaders yesterday to divert some of the resources spent on arms production to relieving the suffering of the sick and disabled.

He made the appeal on the second day of his 11-day tour of Canada, during a visit to a centre for the handicapped in Quebec City. The visit to the centre, where he touched hands with or kissed scores of wheelchair patients, was the emotional highlight of his journey so far.

If only a small part of the world's arms budget were

devoted to helping the physically and emotionally disabled, he said, "we could make huge progress and ease the fate of many suffering people".

His audience of young and old patients, staff and volunteers in the centre's auditorium burst into applause.

The Pope also came out with a strong, though indirect, condemnation of abortion, and at the same time vigorously denounced the cause of the elderly.

He said the unborn cry out: "We have the right to birth". The elderly, should be listened

to when they say: "We have the right to life".

In his slow progress into the auditorium, the Pope repeatedly stroked faces and hands, touched hands or bent down and listened to private supplications from most of the centre's 215, physically and emotionally disabled patients.

A wheelchair-ridden woman, overcome by the occasion, broke down and cried as the Pope touched her. Her weeping could be heard for a long time.

Today he was due to travel westwards along the St Lawrence River to Montreal.

Louisiana executes fourth man in a year

Angola, Louisiana (Reuters). - A man convicted of beating to death the near-blind godmother of his youngest child was executed in the electric chair at Louisiana State Prison. He spent his last hours with his family and friends and ate a final meal of ham and tomato sandwiches.

Timothy, 46, aged 46, lost his last round in six years of appeals when he was told the US Supreme Court refused to block his execution.

Governor Edwin Edwards of Louisiana, expressing reservations about the morality of capital punishment, said he could not intervene without new evidence of Baldwin's innocence. It was the fourth execution at the jail in less than a year.

Peking arrests Maoist plotter

Peking (AP) - An official who plotted a direct mass slaughter during the Cultural Revolution has been arrested in Chongqing, the People's Daily reported.

The newspaper accused Xu Mingde of plotting the murder of 19 local officials and a number of other people in Guangxi, Zhuang, southern China. "He also killed people himself," it added.

Landmine kills nine soldiers

Colombo - Nine soldiers were killed by a landmine explosion six miles from Mullativu in the Northern province yesterday (Donovan Moldrich writes).

They were in the first lorry of a patrol convoy. Troops in the other vehicles fired at people on the road suspected of having triggered the device, and the Government said later that four rebels who caused the explosion had been killed.

Escape foiled

Hanover (AP) - A man was shot and dragged away by guards on the East German frontier while apparently trying to escape to the West, according to West German border police.

Dali stable

Barcelona (Reuters) - Salvador Dali, who underwent surgery last Friday for burns threatening his life, is in a stable but still serious condition, a member of the medical team attending him said.

Acid rain study

Oslo (Reuters) - Three British Labour MPs and one Conservative have launched a five-day tour of Norway and Sweden to study the effects of the acid rain which is seriously affecting Scandinavia.

More priests

Rome (Reuters) - The total number of Roman Catholic priests fell between 1973 and 1982 but new recruits have recently been increasing, Vatican statistics show.

3,000 detained

Lima (AFP) - Peruvian police detained 3,000 people in a hunt for guerrillas who carried out two attacks here in 48 hours, killing two sailors and a policeman. Both raids were by three men and a woman thought to be "Comrade Violeta" of the Maoist "Shining Path".

Chinese seized

Hongkong (AP) - An average of 50 mainland Chinese were caught every day this month trying to enter Hongkong illegally, almost double the rate last year.

Charge dropped

Geneva (Reuters) - A Geneva court ordered a 28-year-old Algerian, who hijacked an Air France airliner to Geneva last March, to be confined to a psychiatric clinic. It dropped criminal charges against the unnamed man on the grounds that he suffered from paranoia.

Villagers flee

Jakarta (AP) - More than 13,000 Indonesians have been evacuated from villages on Siau in the Sangir Talud island group of North Sulawesi since the eruption of Mount Karangkajene last Wednesday.

More Nigerians

Lagos - Nigeria's population, generally put at 80 million, reached 94 million last July and could exceed 150 million by the year 2000, the National Population Bureau announced at the weekend during a UN-sponsored seminar on planning.

Killer octopus

Wellington (AP) - Two fishermen from the Pacific island nation of Kiribati were recently held under water and drowned by giant octopuses. The New Zealand Herald said the two men were armed with spears.

President plays Polish card

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Reagan, embarking on a week of campaigning among ethnic and Roman Catholic groups, said the "oppressor's boot" would never defeat the Polish people. There are 12 million Polish-Americans.

Mr Reagan will be meeting Hispanic groups, blacks and Italian-Americans - all of them important to his reelection strategy in the North-East and Mid-West. Most are Democratic voters. In his opening salvo, Mr Reagan invoked the names of the Pope, the League of Nations, the Solidarity union, and the wartime Polish Home Army.

Republican strategists planned Mr Reagan's week of ethnic politicking - heavy with both religious symbols and partisan rhetoric - in the hope of capturing some of the Catholic support that will undoubtedly swing behind his Geraldine Ferraro, the Democratic vice-presidential candidate, a Catholic of Italian descent.

Ms Ferraro is facing increasing difficulties with Catholic groups, however, over her policy on abortion. Democratic strategists are, however, buoyed by a potentially damaging disapproval from her and Archbishop John O'Connor of New York, who said she had

created the mistaken impression that Catholic teaching on abortion was "open to interpretation".

Ms Ferraro has said that, as a Catholic, she opposes abortion, but feels bound to uphold the United States Constitution, which leaves the choice to the individual. She said yesterday she would talk by telephone to the Archbishop of New York - her own diocese - about his criticism. The Archbishop said: "There is no variance, there is no flexibility, there is no leeway. It is the task of the Church to reaffirm that abortion is death."

He has come under fire from Catholic laymen in New York, including Governor Mario Cuomo, for asserting that he did not see how a Catholic in good conscience can vote for a candidate who explicitly supports abortion. He later said that he was not telling Catholics who to vote for.

President Reagan, an ardent anti-abortionist, was, by contrast, fulsomely praised for his policy by Cardinal John Krol of Philadelphia.

Mr Reagan indicated that he would be prepared to lift remaining sanctions against Poland "in response to further significant movements towards further national reconciliation in Poland".

Jackson tells South every vote counts

From Trevor Fishlock, Columbia, South Carolina

The irrepressible Rev Jesse Jackson is on the road again, swinging through the southern states, urging people to get on to the voters' rolls, to vote Mondale-Ferraro, and send Ronald Reagan back home on his horse.

Mr Jackson, one of the most exciting of modern American political speakers, is hammering his message that every vote counts. President Reagan won most of the South in 1980 by small margins. He took South Carolina, for example, by only 11,000 votes "by default", in Mr Jackson's words.

Mr Jackson's purpose is to mobilise the millions of people, especially blacks, who must register before they can vote, and get them out on November 6 - to support Mr Walter Mondale, the Democratic candidate. "Don't be intimidated by Goliath," he told a lunchtime rally here in the heart of his home state. "Little David, you have power in your hand - lift up your mind and use your rock."

As he stumps in the South, talking of a new era of southern involvement in national politics, Mr Jackson is emphasising economic and social issues, the "shift from racial battleground to economic common ground".

As an aside, he is dismissive

of Mr Reagan's "prayer cloths and flags" exploitation of religion and patriotism as Republican election themes. "In South Carolina," he said from the steps of the state Capitol building, "as we fight for jobs and peace and justice, let us not be diverted."

In a swipe at Mr Reagan that delighted the crowd, he said: "The issue of prayer in school has been raised. But we can pray in school. You don't have to stand up and pray out loud. God ain't hard of hearing."

Mr Jackson's recent decision to embrace the Mondale-Ferraro ticket came after talks with Mr Mondale and Democratic leaders. Mr Jackson, and his supporters sought a commitment to a broader appeal to blacks, who make up about a fifth of the Democratic electorate.

It is the desire to beat Mr Reagan that unites blacks and whites in the party and overrides their disagreements. Mr Jackson is on the road in the South because he believes that wholesale registration and a large black turnout gives Mr Mondale the best hope of taking vital southern states.

As he finished his rousing speech in Columbia he called on the unregistered to come forward and register as voters.

Townships death toll reaches 39

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Another black has died during continuing unrest in South African townships, bringing to 39 the number of people killed in the past two weeks of clashes. Several hundred are known to have been injured, though there is no accurate figure.

The worst violence yesterday was in Kaituma, 12 miles south-east of Johannesburg. Police said a man attempting to set fire to a shop was killed by another black. A man was injured when police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse stone-throwing crowds of youths who looted milk and cigarettes from two delivery vehicles.

Police also reported the stoning of schools in Soweto - the centre of the 1976 upheavals but so far relatively quiet in the present wave of unrest - and in a black township outside Warmbaths, a spa town 60 miles north of Pretoria. Tear gas was used to break up crowds which surrounded the homes of four councillors in Tumbahole, a township in northern Orange Free State.

The Government, meanwhile, has ordered the arrest of seven leading black and Indian political activists who were released last Friday after a judge in the Pietermaritzburg Supreme Court had ruled that their detention was invalid under terms of the Internal Security Act.

So far the police have been unable to find the seven men to rearrest them. They include Mr Archibald Gumede, leader of the multiracial United Democratic Front, which led the campaign to boycott recent Indian and Coloured elections.

In a related case, a judge in the Rand Supreme Court yesterday turned down an urgent application for the release of eight political detainees, most of whom are associated with the UDF.



Moscow chat show: Marshal Akhromeyev (centre), with Mr Georgy Kornienko, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, at his side, answering questions from the NBC presenter, Bryant Gumbel.

Akhromeyev shrugs off his promotion

Washington (AP) - Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev, who was appointed as the Soviet Union's senior military officer last week, said yesterday that his assignment was "just a regular change" in the top ranks of the armed forces.

Marshal Akhromeyev, aged 61, was named last week to succeed Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov who had served as Chief of Staff of the armed forces since 1977.

In a rare interview broadcast from

Moscow on the NBC Today programme, Marshal Akhromeyev also said that President Chernomir, who dropped from public view for several weeks this summer, "is working now". But he declined to offer any specific comments about the state of Mr Chernomir's health.

Marshal Akhromeyev, speaking in Russian with simultaneous translations, said: "I can tell you only one thing. Konstantin Chernomir is working. He

carries out his functions, and I cannot add anything except that."

Mr Chernomir, who had not been seen in public since July 13, reappeared last Wednesday at a Kremlin ceremony. The terse phrasing of a Tass Announcement last Thursday, announcing Marshal Ogarkov's departure "in connexion with a new appointment" came as a surprise to Western Kremlinologists and suggested that the Marshal had been demoted.

Two Spanish fishing boats were stopped by Moroccan patrol yesterday and all nine crew members arrested.

No reason for the arrests has been given by the Moroccan authorities, but officials in Spain said they could be a reprisal for an incident last week in which a Spanish skipper "hijacked" two Moroccan soldiers who boarded the boat Santa Teresa de Jesús after it was caught allegedly fishing illegally in Moroccan waters.

Spanish fishing crews held by Moroccans

From a Correspondent, Madrid

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Malta sees US threat in the Med

Valletta (Reuters) - Mr Alex Sciberras Trigona, the Maltese Foreign Minister, singled out the United States in an attack yesterday, on superpower military interests in the Mediterranean.

Speaking at a meeting of nine non-aligned nations and a top Palestinian official here, he said: "The uses to which the US Navy has been put in our region during the problems in Lebanon and elsewhere is a reality which cannot be ignored."

"Naval manoeuvres... must be curtailed and in some cases eliminated," he urged countries in the region to reject foreign military bases on their soil.

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, the Palestine Liberation Organization delegate, said the presence of the US Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean was "a direct threat to the security of the region and its independence."

As well as Malta, the foreign ministers of Egypt, Yugoslavia, Syria, Morocco, Libya and Tunisia, and other ministers from Algeria and Cyprus are attending the meeting. Mr Sciberras Trigona called on NATO and Warsaw Pact countries in southern Europe to join in what he called "security-building measures".

Britain says EEC fish pact abused

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Britain yesterday accused other EEC fishing countries of failing in their duty to police the common fisheries policy.

During a fish council meeting in Brussels, Lord Gray, the British minister, raised the issue as other countries tried to force Britain to allow higher levels of fish to be caught "accidentally".

Lord Gray said that there were "loopholes" in the monitoring of the CFP, which lays down catch levels for each country. These levels are meant to be policed by each member state, with a final check by a new team of 13 European Commission officials.

The British minister said that, although the Commission team had improved the situation, other countries were not as "meticulous" as Britain in reporting the exact catch levels.

The main issue was whether the permitted proportion of "by catch" fish should be raised from 10 per cent to 20 per cent. "By catch" is edible fish caught by accident when trawling for varieties that can be used only for fertilizer and animal feed.

In a minority of one, Britain was trying to ensure that any increase was only temporary and was properly policed.

Budget dominates talks

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Continuing difficulties over the EEC budget in general, and Britain's views in particular, were thought to have dominated yesterday's meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, M Claude Cheysson.

But officials said that these were only part of a wide-ranging discussion which also touched on East-West relations. The atmosphere was "excellent".

The meeting was one of a regular series of contacts between the two men, who lunched at the Foreign Secretary's official country home at Chevening in Kent.

INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH REJECTS THE CAA'S PROPOSALS FOR MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

The recommendations have serious implications not only for airlines but also for airports and the regions they serve.

Manchester Airport would welcome competition but totally rejects airline substitution on its European routes.

The CAA's recommendations award all of the benefits of airline competition to travellers in the South East.

**Manchester Airport is the North's International Gateway.
Its continued strength and development is crucial to the
economic regeneration of an area containing 20 million people.**

"Business in the North of England requires expansion of services and the development of intercontinental routes."
J. White, Director, Central and West Lancashire Chamber of Commerce.

"The emphasis of the report predictably dwells on building up a second major airline (British Caledonian) and hence Gatwick Airport. When will Westminster, Whitehall, and bodies such as the CAA learn that not everyone who wishes to fly out of the U.K. lives in the South-East?"
R.E. Foden, Director and Company Secretary, Standex International Limited.

"Manchester International Airport is the key factor to the economic growth and future prosperity of this region and it must be recognised as such."
M. Unger, Editor, Manchester Evening News.

"We continue to retain the headquarters for all our export business and the administration of our European subsidiary companies in Manchester because its international airport provides such an excellent network of direct flights to Europe and beyond."
A.B.M. Oke, Overseas Director, Mather and Platt.

"Competition not confiscation."
G.R.C. McDowell, Vice President, Manchester Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Chairman, George H. Scholes.

"Ingersoll Rand need an 'upgraded' Manchester Airport. The CAA's proposals would inhibit the development we require."
G. O'Brien, Financial Director, Ingersoll Rand.

"The CAA have simply failed to count the cost of their proposals. Lancashire - and the North West in general - will pay dearly. Payment will be not only in delay and inconvenience, but also in job loss, as degraded air services discourage industrialists from relocating in our region."
D.R. Mason, Central Lancashire New Town.

"Sadly the divide between the two 'nations' North and South seems to be growing and not narrowing and the CAA's apparent policy about Manchester International Airport will reinforce the unfortunate trend."
Gilbert C. Hinchley, Group Managing Director, Hinchley Group.

"The North of England needs a major International Gateway airport. We see the CAA's proposals as a further handicap to industry and commerce in the North."
J. Roca, Director, Leeds Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"As a newly independent company with an active interest in exporting, we are keen to see international and intercontinental services from Manchester Airport expand and develop. The CAA's proposals are a serious threat to this."
M. Barrett, Managing Director, L. & M. Ltd., Altrincham.

"As a major International Company with its headquarters in the North West, we regard it as important to have available the facilities of an International Airport."
A.M. Wiggall, Chairman, Tool Group PLC.

"The CAA proposals for Manchester Airport have wide implications for all businessmen in the North of England and we in Sheffield deplore this threat not only to Manchester's wide range of international services but also to its potential for new continental and intercontinental destinations."
J. Hambridge, Director, Sheffield Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Any downgrading of Manchester International Airport could have catastrophic effects on the major growth industry in electronics, computers and communications. This would lead to the loss of thousands of jobs in the North West."
J. Taylor O.B.E., Chairman of the Information Technology Awareness Committee.

"First-class international and intercontinental air access is essential to the growth of tourism in the North West. We are most alarmed by the CAA proposals, which could seriously impair the appeal of this great region to its vital overseas markets."
Anthony Goldstone, Chairman, The North West Tourist Board.

"The proximity of Manchester International Airport is a great area. This appeal will be markedly diminished if the CAA proposals are implemented. Once again, the South East will gain at the expense of the North West, and our area will lose more of D. Birns, General Manager, Warrington-Ruscom Development Corporation.

"Manchester is the home of the CWS, suppliers to Britain's biggest retail business and linked with Co-ops throughout the world. We need a strong International Airport here."
D. Landau, Chief Executive, The Co-operative Wholesale Society.

"Greater Manchester's appeal to incoming industry is greatly enhanced by its excellent air communications. The CAA Review, if implemented, would greatly degrade Manchester International Airport's usefulness to the business community. In turn, this would mean fewer jobs and retarded economic recovery throughout the whole region."
L. Boardman, Managing Director, Greater Manchester Economic Development Corporation.

"The thought that the network of international routes from Manchester would be eroded fills me with concern. One should be looking for ways of increasing the facilities for passengers rather than merely considering the airlines and airports."
R.D. Flanders, Commercial Director, North West Electricity Board.

"The Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry is deeply concerned at the implications and effects of the CAA report on airline competition CAP 500 policy. The CAA exercises discrimination against the North. As approximately 40 per cent of UK passengers originate outside the South East we feel there should be a commitment by Government and CAA to give every assistance and support for the long term development of the Manchester Airport and the region it serves."
J.F. Morris, President, Manchester Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Due consideration must be given to those 2,000 ABTA travel agents who live in the Manchester catchment area, serving 20,000,000 potential clients to whom they market the travel product."
R. Booth, Chairman, North West Region, Association of British Travel Agents, Proprietor, Airtrac Travel.

"As one of the major companies involved in the manufacture of high technology products we are concerned that the CAA's International Airport to the detriment of the business community of the North West."
G. Duffy, Ferranti PLC.

PEOPLE AND INDUSTRY IN THE NORTH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED.

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Rama Rao's men undergo test of nerves on journey to key vote

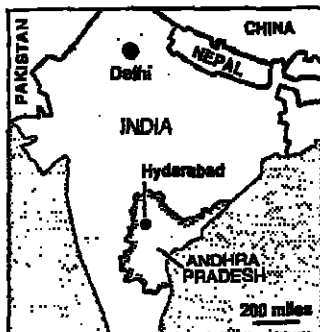
From Michael Hamlyn
Hyderabad

Mr N. T. Rama Rao, the former Chief Minister of the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, who is fighting to get his job back spent an anxious two hours on the road on the outskirts of Hyderabad, the state capital, yesterday.

He had been to the border with neighbouring Karnataka where he had sequestered members of the legislative assembly who support him, so that they could not be enticed or intimidated by aides of the new Chief Minister, Mr Nandini Bhaskara Rao. They were now being transported to the capital to vote in a no-confidence motion in the legislative assembly today.

But at Gagan Pahad, seven miles away from the city, a line of police and a police bus blocked the road which was lined with more than 100 paramilitary police reserves in full riot gear with chest-pads, helmets and shields.

Mr Rama Rao, leading a convoy of eight buses and an



innumerable number of journalists and hangers-on in cars was perched on the roof of his 1942 Chevrolet van dressed in the habitual saffron that identifies holy men here, waving to the knots of people who gathered at the crossroads along the way to greet him.

When the convoy came to the road block, the Deputy Commissioner Police, Mr D. V. Subba Reddy, told Mr Rama Rao that it could proceed only under his protection to one of three specified destinations in the city. They could get there, furthermore, only by disembarking from their buses and

continuing their journey in police buses.

Mr Rama Rao's devotees felt that every moment that the members of the legislative assembly are not actually under their control they will be subject to temptations to slip out and join the other side. Bribes of 2.5m rupees (£170,000) have been mentioned which would be a great temptation to a politician who might not earn it in a lifetime.

The fear was that the police buses might deliver the members straight to Mr Bhaskara Rao, despite Mr Subba Reddy's protests that he would not be party to such a conspiracy.

A two-hour negotiation ensued. Eventually it was agreed the politicians should travel in their own buses to the assembly building.

All this is part of the war of nerves that is going on before today's crucial assembly meeting. It seems probable that the war will continue today with an adjournment of the meeting before getting to the vote. That will, of course, expose Mr Rama Rao's followers to even further temptations.



Whitehall parade: General Arun Shridhar Vaidya, Chief of the Indian Army Staff, inspecting a guard of honour, provided by the 2nd Battalion Coldstream Guards, at the Defence Ministry yesterday. He is on an official visit to the British Army.

Japanese kingmaker backs Nakasone

From David Watts
Tokyo

Japan's political kingmaker, Mr Kakuei Tanaka, has confirmed his support for the Prime Minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, in the forthcoming contest for leadership of the Liberal-Democrat Party.

Mr Tanaka's public endorsement came in a typically blunt speech by the former Prime Minister to a study session of his own faction of the party, which is the largest.

The presidency of the LDP automatically carries with it the post of Prime Minister, since the party has a majority in both houses of the Diet (parliament).

In the way of Japanese politics, Mr Tanaka's public announcement of what was already a private pact was indirect. He called for extension of the LDP leader's terms from the present two years to at least three, saying that only a year after taking up the office a president had to start campaigning for the position again. He would like to see the office held for a six-year period, subject to reelection after three.

Mr Tanaka's endorsement puts Mr Nakasone in a strong position to continue his leadership of the party after the November election for the post. But he may not have a completely free run; yesterday Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the former Foreign Minister, met his supporters to announce that he would also contest the party presidency.

Mr Miyazawa and others who may yet emerge to challenge Mr Nakasone will be facing a party president who has been considerably strengthened by the successful visit of President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea.

Foreign policy has been Mr Nakasone's strong suit but both Mr Miyazawa and another potential contender, Mr Toshio Komoto of the Economic Planning Agency, are critical of the party leader's economic policies at home.

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Turkey: Reha Isvan

By Caroline Moorehead

A founder member of the Turkish Peace Association (TPA) and the Turkish women's rights movement, also once a Deputy Director of Education, is serving eight years, hard labour for "making statements against the national interest". Mrs Reha Isvan, who is 59, and the wife of a former mayor of Istanbul - also currently under indictment - is in Metris prison in Istanbul.

After taking a degree in agricultural science, Mrs Isvan took up farming. She became active locally, setting up literacy campaigns in villages, and nationally, founding an organization to conserve Turkey's architectural heritage and becoming the European executive member of the Soroptimists, a women's equivalent of the Rotary Club. In 1977 she joined the TPA executive.

In February, 1982, Mrs Isvan was arrested with other prominent TPA members. After being held in Metris prison for 10 months she was released on bail, but less than a year later she and 17 other prominent Turkish public figures were tried before a military tribunal on charges of trying to undermine Turkey's agreements with the United States and Nato.

Since the indictment consisted of speeches made by the TPA before the 1980 coup, the defendants are being held guilty for statements which were perfectly legal at the time. The accusation against them is "guilt by association of intention". Mrs Isvan's eight-year prison sentence will be followed by 32 months in internal exile.

MR Guillermo Ovando, one of two Paraguayan prisoners of conscience featured in this column last month, has recently been released after a prolonged hunger strike.



Mrs Isvan addressing the military tribunal

Pragmatist Suharto runs into trouble

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta

With an 18-year record of relative political stability, economic growth and a seemingly uncanny knack of balancing between rigid anti-communism and dogged adherence to the non-aligned movement, it would appear President Suharto of Indonesia has little to worry about.

He did not, despite ravaging blows from the recession and the drop in oil prices, allow the country to join the fraternity of international monetary-basket cases, nor, despite the international upsurge in Islam, allow the country's more militant preachers to get out of hand.

He is, however, worried. Facing the very practical consideration that no man stays in power for ever - he took over the country as a young general in the midst of a communist coup attempt in 1965, President Suharto, ever the pragmatist, is now trying to write into law the rules he has personally used to keep the world's fifth most

populous country stable. He is, meeting an unexpected amount of opposition.

To say people are up in arms would be a wild exaggeration, but strong, domestically respected voices have been raised under his protection to one of the late Vice-President, Adam Malik, the former Asean Secretary-General, General Dharsono, seniors in the Roman Catholic Church, Muslim political party members, a former Army chief of staff, and several former Cabinet members.

The timing of their protests, many but not all of them banned from appearing in the Indonesian press, is designed to stop or at least modify five Bills President Suharto is trying to push through the Indonesian Parliament. These are designed to determine the composition of Parliament, harness any extremist tendencies in mass organizations, both religious and social and, perhaps, most elusively, institutionalize a political party system that will



President Suharto: nearly 20 years in power

not degenerate into factionalism.

The most strident and most banned protest came from a group of five loosely grouped organizations headed by the dissident "Group of 50" - big-name generals and academics who have become disaffected with the Suharto regime.

On August 17, National Day, the group issued a lengthy pamphlet warning legislators

that the new rules were intended to institutionalize what they see as a not-so-benign military dictatorship.

Last week several leading Muslims dropped angrily out of the country's main opposition (in Indonesia it is not called opposition) party, the PPP (United Development Party) in protest.

"The proposed law (on mass organizations)," said Mr T. B. Simatupang, chairman of the Indonesian Council of Churches, "empowers government officials to dissolve an organization on the grounds of its belief or practice of Marxism and communist teachings. This would make it far too easy for an official, who perhaps has little knowledge of the teachings, to make an accusation and dissolve the organization."

Mr Simatupang stopped well short of saying the Bills should not be adopted - they demand that all mass organizations adopt the state ideology, Pancasila, as their main principle - but he did say they should be modified.

Fed-up Contra chief returning to Managua

From Martha Honey, San José

member ruling junta) to go to Managua.

He has now decided to go back because he is "fed up" with the in-fighting and ineffectiveness of the armed counter-revolution.

Señor Coronel's departure represents another blow to Señora Pastora's beleaguered forces, which in recent months have split into two warring factions, led by Señora Pastora and Señora Alfonso Robelo.

Under pressure from the CIA they are now meeting secretly to seek a basis for reunification.

UN leader puts stress on diplomacy

From Zoriana Pysarski, New York

A call for a return to multilateral diplomacy has been made by Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary General.

The pursuit of bilateral agreements has little prospect of success, he says, in a world of increasingly complex and inter-

twined interests. In a survey of the world's trouble spots presented before the UN General Assembly, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar gives testimony to the folly of a bilateral approach where solutions can be only short-lived.

The abortive Israeli-Lebanese accord was just one example where rival interests were ignored for short-term political gain, he said in his third annual report.

The past year had been a time of great tension, accentuated by a lack of progress in disarmament and arms control.

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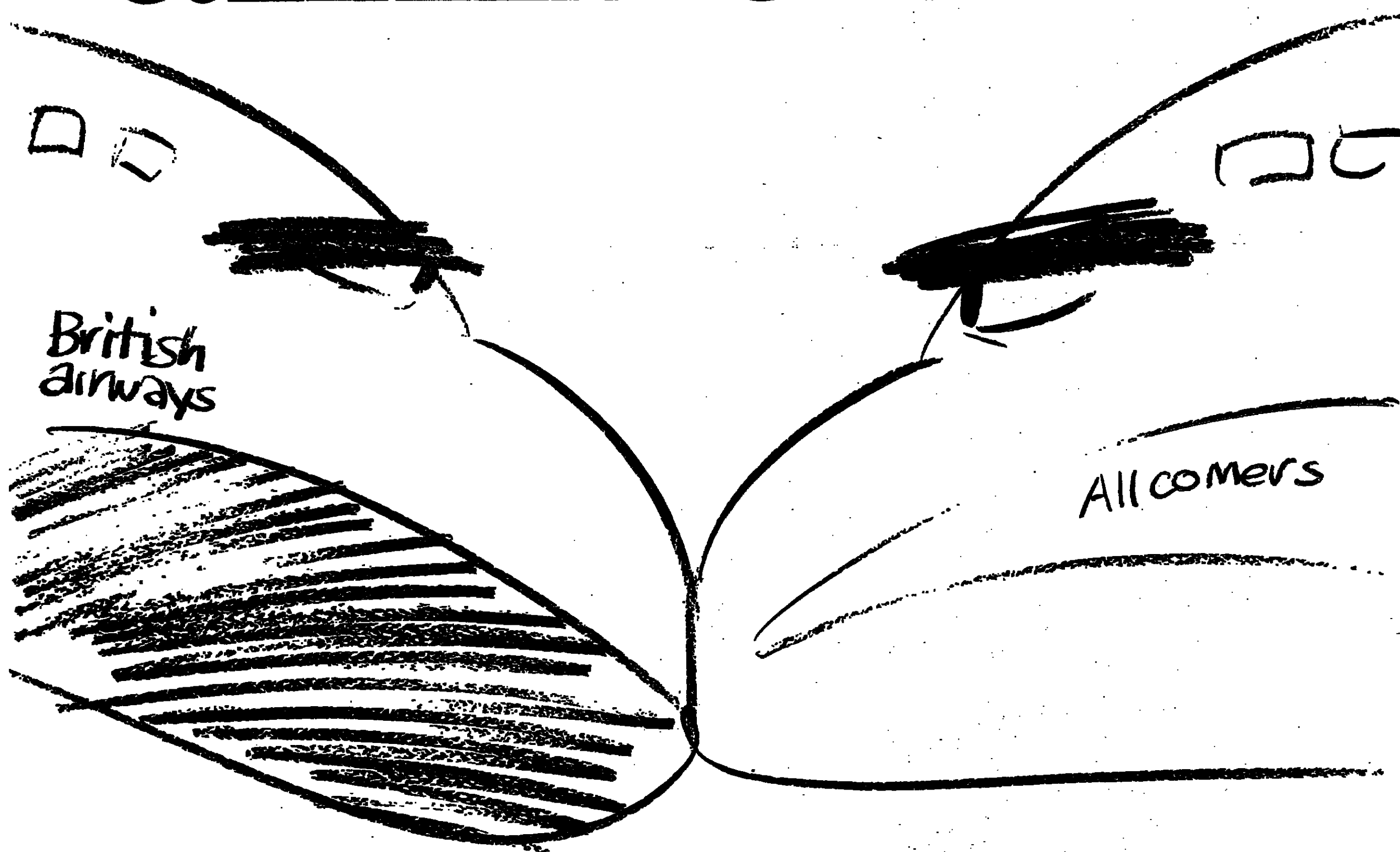
Syri

Key Ni
flees to

Weeks say
sorry
in style

80s men

And may the best airline win.



The Civil Aviation Authority airline proposals recommend handing over 30 major routes that British Airways currently operate to other British airlines on a plate.

This would simply substitute another airline for British Airways on a route, and would give no additional choice at all to the British fare paying passenger.

It does nothing to stimulate a better service since there's no extra competition.

And it will greatly damage our airline industry as a whole, and benefit major foreign airlines. First, because the foreigners will no longer have to compete with the strongest national carrier.

And second, because there's no guarantee that passengers who would normally choose British Airways would be happy to switch to other British airlines.

Particularly in overseas markets where they might well be unknown.

Wouldn't a more sensible way of maintaining Britain's share in this fiercely competitive market be to allow other British airlines to fly *in competition* with us on the routes they choose?

Not *instead* of us.

Indeed, with a bit of healthy competition we should build on Britain's share between us.

Let's put it to the test, and may the best airline win.

**British
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INNER CITY VISIONS

In the second part of our series on revitalizing the South Bank Peter Cook suggests partial flooding to make a lagoon; while Alison and Peter Smithson want to 'reclaim' the embankments

PETER COOK

Ever since I first visited London as a provincial child I have found the southern part of London a rather sad place: basically drab and seedy. It is as if the war was still on. As I have travelled more, the impression intensifies, and all those things for which one rushes back to London are north of the river.

Let's not mess about then. The really dreary bit is the flat patch behind the bend in the river. By flooding it we can give a real focus to the southern half of the capital which could then act as the trigger for the re-establishment of some of the places that together might form a new city.

Since I am a staunch European, this city would become the one that identifies with the arrival of other Europeans. The place to stay, live in, go on the beach or use a new type of office-workshop which has views through trees to special, intriguing places and lunch by the water. In the end this city would be competing with old, traditional London, north of the river instead of being (as it is now) a place that has to be defended with all the shrillness of true provinciality.

The London Lagoon is a carefully-sited patch of water with imported and washed sand beaches. Some of these beaches are partially or progressively grassed and planted so that we have a new hybrid: the beach garden. The

same treatment is offered selectively to parts of the cleaned-up River Thames.

Most of the new housing-cum-workshops takes the form of an intermingling of apartments and gardens which depends upon a loose-fit to allow plenty of light and air into the system.

The Elephant and Castle is heroized and acts as the identifiable focus of the lagoon city. Underground are the rapid links to the surrounding centres and to north London and Europe. A circulating boat service links the centres for the more relaxed users.

The covering of Waterloo Station becomes an arena with a great view over north London and lagoon city. Blackfriars is a gateway. Towards Bermondsey is a wider variety of offerings including a vegetated complex, the Tower of South London to connect back to the older Tower, the Bermondsey Towers and Glades which combine a sensible "rack" system of housing with drapes of vegetation and tiny islets in the water.

Waltham is crowned by a mound: a special garden with apartment overlooking out of it. Lambeth too has gardens, but draped from its own towers. Finally, the old tradition of the Vauxhall Gardens is recalled in the quiet walk from the Tate Gallery to the Elephant and Castle.

ALISON AND PETER SMITHSON

The South Bank's hinterland is secret, its intricacy bounded by the railway viaduct following the river into terminal stations and the rat-runs of roads which even 40 years ago provided working access.

Now we have to make the M25 orbital work for a restoration of the quality of life in London. (Highway and Islington already suffer less from lorries). For the first time in 20 years one-way systems can be looked at again in relation to the areas through which they pass. London's roads can be redesigned for the enhancement of life in the capital: this premise underlies our comments on the South Bank.

The mixed domestic character of the South Bank's hinterland is not indicated on its face to the Thames. Originally work places presented the Lambeth and Southwark residents' face to the river: this was all lost when the embankments were

built and Londoners ceased to be river people.

We seem to have lost the knack of making an open space which structures housing and gives it identity and quality, as did those spaces given to the city by a building, while remaining unequivocally the territory of the building, possibly and sheltered by it (what we term an open space giving building) like the churchyard before Southwark Cathedral, the guns and steps before the Imperial War Museum or the courts before Greenwich.

Many spaces have been added to the South Bank but most speak to nothing. Spring Gardens, perhaps the largest, simply spreads wider the train noise from the viaduct running into Waterloo. The open spaces are all "alongside" in the way that the Victoria Tower Gardens are alongside the House of Parliament.

Therefore if we say open spaces should occasionally

speak across the river to open a dialogue with institutions on the North Bank, these spaces have to be of a new kind, given by, surrounded by, new buildings that are the "covered part" of a more open fabric'd city.

We are not talking about left over residual space, or paper space cut through by a moving wall of traffic, but building and space as one language, a gift to the urban fabric of a new interlocking invention. Interlocked open space and building is that nature of building which could not exist without the open space and that open space which could not exist without the building.

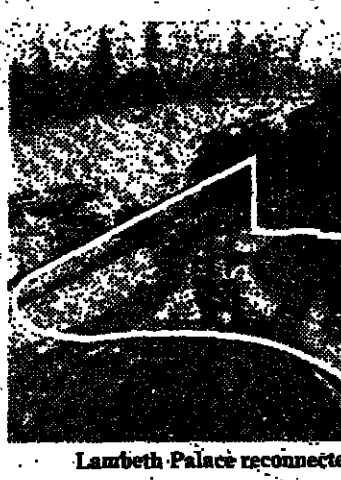
We start our proposals at Vauxhall Bridge. Here the landowner, the Duchy of Lancaster, should have established a quality of building worthy of the capital: the present buildings between Vauxhall and Lambeth Bridges

are all unworthy. With the exception of the London Fire Brigade HQ, a vital service importantly sited, the strip facing Millbank should be demolished and the Albert Embankment road removed.

In its place should come an "open-space-giving-building" that would have to contain the noise of the railway, extending this service to Spring Gardens on the other side of the viaduct, make meaningful again the "Walks" of the South Bank; Spring Gardens should flow through the viaduct's arches to the river.

At the up-river end some more expansive gesture, of open space joining the river without interruption, can signify that the Thames Barrier is in position. Lambeth Palace could not have acquired a worse setting in a communist state. To restore its "presence" Morton's Gate-

way (1490) has to regain its fore-territory at its original level. The area between the palace wall and the river has an extra function as "the place from which to view the Houses of Parliament": let us accept



Lambeth Palace reconnected to the Thames by a lawn

this and close Lambeth Palace Road.

To give breathing, or internal space to St Thomas's Hospital, tourist buses could approach through a relatively confined way to park between the

substantial hospital walls and the palace garden; from the hinterland, Archbishop's Park could flow outward in place of the present ash-covered wasteland.

Albert Embankment Walk seems well used and could be greatly enhanced by removal of the emergency flood-control capping. The most spectacular evidence of a quiescent Thames would be to display the medieval Palace, reconnecting it to the water with a Palace lawn: a portion of the Albert Embankment Walk could divert via a chain of floating islands.

An open-space-giving-building should come between the river and the Shell Building, to mask its bulk and open a dialogue with Scotland Yard and Whitehall Court on the North Bank.

The planned Globe Theatre should reach out to the water breaking down the crudity of

"wall" in an open welcome of steps and landing places: let us begin to enjoy the Thames as Lisbon does the Tagus.

It is sad that the warehouses of London have had no successful defenders; those around the small Southwark basin were a particularly neat group: such buildings of good pedigree give an urban fabric its sense of depth; without them the enclave of Southwark Cathedral is brittle... but nevertheless it should be supported by what good fabric remains around the northern section of Borough High Street. St Thomas Street, and old Guy's Hospital.

Tomorrow

A wall in the middle of the river, and a new town called Thameside

Death in Vienna, or how to make a quick killing

The secret of writing a smash West End hit is, it seems, either to write a mystery play featuring two actors, both of whom kill each other the whole while, or to investigate the death of Mozart. Never loath to earn a quick million, I have written a play which combines both brilliantly. It is called...

KÖCHEL!
(The scene is part of a palace in Vienna, 1791. A few chairs and musical instruments are lying about. Mozart enters and flings himself at the piano, where he starts playing. Köchel enters and stands watching.) Köchel: This is a new composition, Wolfgang? Mozart: What? Oh no, this is just an improvisation. Köchel: Ah, (He crosses out something in his book.)

Mozart: On the other hand, I might turn it into a piano sonata, if there's time before supper.

Köchel: Oh, (He tries to write in the book again.) You haven't got an eraser on you, have you?

Mozart: Oh, for heaven's sake, Köchel! I think you do more alterations than I do. Yet all you write down is numbers - I actually have to compose the blasted music.

Köchel: It's easy for you. It just seems to come. But numbering it all is a nightmare. By the way, now that I've got you here, can I ask about the two piano trios you wrote as a boy in London? Which one did you write in the morning, and which in the afternoon?

Mozart: G in the morning,

moreover... Miles Kingdon

and A Flat after lunch. And D in the evening. Köchel: What? There was another one?

Mozart: Yes. Sorry. Forgot to tell you. Köchel: My God, Wolfgang, do you know what that means? I'll have to remember everything from the age of 10 onwards.

Mozart: Child's play to you, Ludwig. Anyway, why don't you go decimal or something? Call it K56.5. Or K56a. Now I must go out in the garden - I feel a flute sonata coming on. (Exit). Köchel: The devil. The young devil. Great composer he may be, but he has no idea of the nature of numbers, the sheer magic of

numbers! Counting piano concertos to me is art, a higher art even than writing them. And yet he will be famous in 100 years, while I... (Enter a figure in a cape and low-brimmed hat. We cannot see his face.) Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't know...

Salleri: My name is Salleri. I write-a da music. Also, I come-a from Italia. Köchel: Yes, so you do. And what brings you here? Salleri: I have-a a sacred mission to count-a da works of Mozart. Ah, he is-a genius. But his work needs numbers. Köchel: Never! You cannot do that. That is my life's work (Madly, he draws a knife and advances on Salleri. The latter throws off his

cape and proves to be Mozart in disguise).

Mozart: Temper, temper, Köchel! My God, you do take your work seriously, don't you?

Köchel: Wolfgang, why must you play these childish tricks on me? I almost killed Salleri.

Mozart: Not so, old boy. You almost killed me. You're welcome to kill him any time you like, though. The old fool gives me the creeps.

Köchel: Old fool? He's only six years older than you, you know.

Mozart: You know me, Ludwig... I never could count properly. You should see me waltzing, it's like a

one-legged man trying to walk a tightrope.

Köchel: Waltzing? But the waltz hasn't even been invented yet!

Mozart: Wanna bet? I thought it up at the weekend. In fact, I've written twenty or thirty already.

Köchel: Twenty or thirty? But that's K860 to K890 inclusive!

Mozart: Could be. Here they are, anyway. He carelessly throws a sheaf of papers on the floor. Köchel goes on his hands and knees, weeping and trying to pick them up.

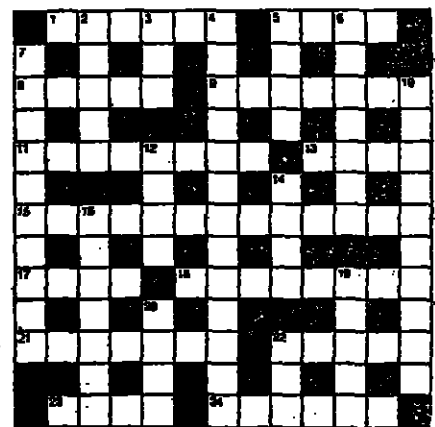
Köchel: Oh, Wolfgang, Wolfgang! Why do you do this to me?

Curtain. End of Act I. Act II tomorrow! There will now be an interval of 24 hours.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 442)

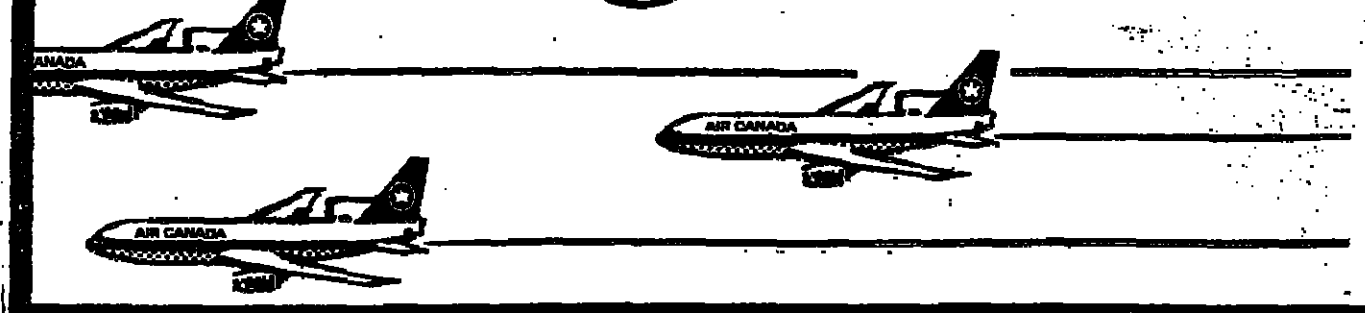
- ACROSS
1 Messiah composer (6)
5 Rub lightly (4)
8 Poppy drug (5)
9 Since olden time (3,4)
11 Vigna Carta monarch (4,4)
13 Miserly (4)
15 Decomposable (1,3)
17 Red corundum (4)
18 Underground cemetery (8)
21 US rail system (7)
22 Roman house (5)
23 Scheme (4)
24 US dinner jacket (6)

- DOWN
2 Foreigner (5)
3 River barrier (3)
4 Cranelly larva (1,3)
6 At what time (4)
7 Saying (7)
10 Laughing jacks (10)



- SOLUTION TO No 441
ACROSS 1 Köchel 4 Pigskin 8 Tongue 9 Rotunda 10 Appoplexy 11 Dis- 13 Psychedelic 17 Rome 18 Bludgeon 21 Javelin 22 Ridge 23 Narrat- 24 Endue
DOWN 1 Kibitz 2 Bingo 3 Basilica 4 Par excellence 5 Goth 6 Kon- 7 Number 12 Gendarme 14 Samovar 15 Trojan 16 Sneeze 19 Endue 20 Fica

More flights to more places more often.



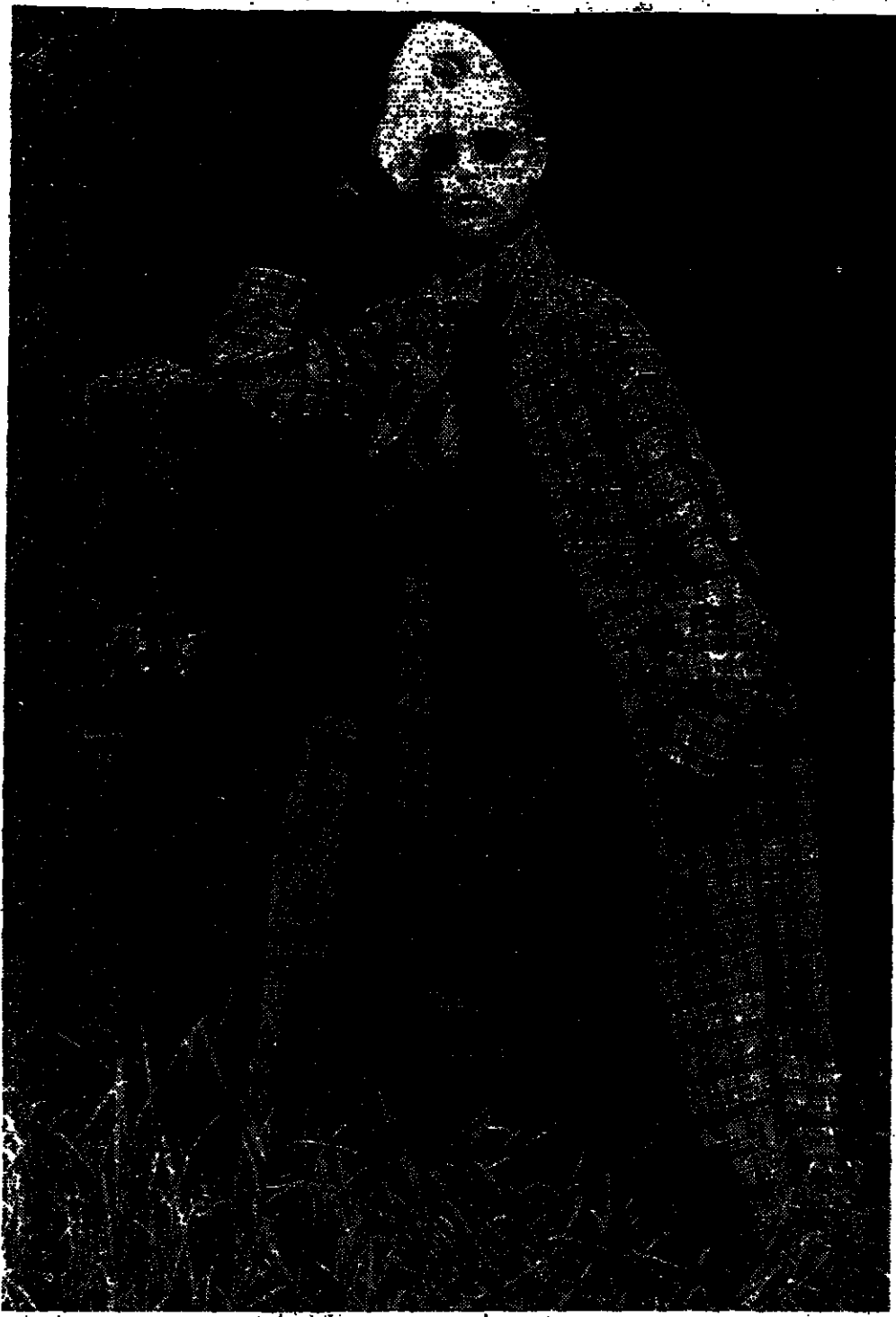
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

THE FLOWERING of THE PLAID



Scottish readers may be shocked by fashion's latest tussle with tartan. Plaid has gone Punk with the wildest mixtures of pattern and print. Two different tartans cross the border in one garment or are interwoven with exotic paisley or sweet English florals in a riotous ethnic mix. It sounds enough to set the bagpipes wailing. Yet have the Scots any real claim to the wearing of the plaid?

The whole concept of a distinct Highland culture and tradition is a sham. The flowering of the plaid came after Culloden, when the English tried to stamp out Highland traditions by banning the wearing of "plaid, phibeg, trews, shoulder-belts... tartans or parti-coloured plaid or stuff". This prohibition gave tartan a romance, glamour and political significance that it had never had before. It moved from the backs of the peasants to the lairds and gentry and thus became fashionable.

The kilt itself was created in the eighteenth century by an English Quaker industrialist from Lancashire, who found that the piece of plaid cloth belted round the body inhibited the workers in his Scottish forests and smelting furnaces. He took the "quilt" and asked a regimental tailor from Inverness to "abridge the dress and make it handy for his workmen".

The idea of the plaid as a tribal totem also came after the Forty Five, when the Highland regiments such as the "Black Watch" were "bet" by the British as a material to be approached with reverence. As a fashion from a Highland dress editor, I have shared the view

that plaid should really be worn, like a tiara, only by those entitled to it.

Yes, fashion history supports Professor Trevor-Roper. A century ago "tartanitis" was a fashion fever. It was spread by Queen Victoria from her Scottish fastness, where the Balmoral tartan in red and grey, designed by Prince Albert, and the Queen's mauve and white Victoria tartan rambled through the castle: tartan chair covers, tartan linoleum, generations of royal children wearing the kilt.

Queen Victoria, according to Lynton Strachey, even wore the Royal Stuart tartan out of romantic Jacobite sympathies. Yet just three years and the Princess of Wales was widely criticised for wearing the Balmoral tartan, a tartan which was not "authentic".

This season, designers have shaken themselves free of the shackles of a fake Highland tradition. Vigorous chrome yellow is mixed with Black Watch; young designers are cutting plaid in unusual ways, inserting pockets of different checks into one skirt; they are altering the traditional scale of the checks and mixing them.

Fashion's periodic preoccupation with plaid brings in strong painterly colours against a muted, misty background, a hybrid of Landseer and Lucia di Lammermoor.

The invention of Tradition, edited by Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger, Cambridge University Press, £6.95.

Far left: Plaid goes Punk in new mixes of shape and pattern. Fashion pointers are the big shirt, tartan trousers wide or narrow, paisley mixed with plaid, the roll-neck. Chrome yellow and plaid shirt dress £21.99, ribbed sweater £17.99. Tartan trouser suit (jacket not shown) £75, two-tone gloves £4.25. All from branches of Warehouse nationwide. Paisley and stripe scarf from Liberty, Regent Street W1.

Above: The art of mixing patterns in a complex. Farkle sweater inspired by Constructivist painting. The skirt is skinny at the hips, swaying at the hem. Artwork hand-knitted sweater £164, matching headband £11, both from Joseph, SW1 and W1. Whistles branches, Lisa Stirling, Manchester, Urban Renewal, Brighton. Tartan skirt with inset godets by Coppertop £23.99 from C&S shops, 122 Cannon Street EC2, and in Manchester, Nottingham, Leeds or Snob branches nationwide. Ribbed tights by Pretty Polly. Creased leather lace-ups from Hobbs.

Centre top: The flowering of plaid in a mix of prints is the story of the season. Benetton's Impressionist print asymmetric blouse in cream, lilac and mint green £19.99, toning paisley patterned turtleneck sweater £63.50, red and fern green tartan trousers £28.99, all from branches of Benetton, Tomato and Fantomax nationwide.

Centre left: Textured tweed is part of the new pattern mix. Black and white pebble tweed three-quarter jacket with leather trim, also anemisth. In pure wool, £49.95 from all branches of Next. Paisley dress with white collar (not shown) £115 from major Jaeger branches. Flower pattern scarf from Liberty, Regent Street W1.

Centre below: Tailored coats have dandy details. Nature prints bring in birds as well as flowers. Ally Capellino's jade and anemisth jewel tweed coat with velvet collar £189 from Harrods Way In, Harvey Nichols, Whistles branches and Caroline Berry, Altrincham, Cheshire. Grouse patterned wool shirt £52 and plaid shirt £39, with wide tartan trousers £78. All by Ally Capellino in toning colours from Harrods, Harvey Nichols, Whistles and Libra, Mearsham, Bucks.

Above right: The three-quarter coat over narrow trousers or skirt is a new proportion. Holly berry red and green tartan three-quarter coat £48 by Charisma in two weeks from Farwick, New Bond Street W1. Catherine's of Partick, Glasgow, Martin's, Canterbury. Ochre wool shirt by Sherry. Flowered tapestry trousers by Georgina Godley £50 from Crolla, 35 Dover Street W1. Tartan bow tie and jet twist earrings from Liberty.



Hair by Martin Brooks for Schumi
Fashion assistant: Christine Paine
Photographs by NICK BRIGGS

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THE TIMES DIARY

Norfolk broadside

The Duke of Norfolk, Britain's premier Roman Catholic layman, may be about to be stripped of his presidency of the Catholic Union following an official protest to Cardinal Hume from another Catholic group, which boasts among its members Mrs Thatcher's close political adviser, Christopher Montague and Tory MP Sir John Biggs-Davison. *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice* (For the Church and the Pope), which was launched in 1982 supported by leading Catholics Lord Rawlinson and the late Sir Ralph Richardson, is outraged that the Duke has not been removed after his attack earlier this year on the Church's official teaching on natural family planning. Last week the Pope's reiterated that the natural method is the only acceptable contraception, and even this could be immoral in certain circumstances. The Duke, who may recall, had other ideas. "How can you ask a married couple to go to bed with a thermometer and what not? My wife and I did that - and it didn't bloody work." Yesterday, the Duke said he knew the group was calling for his removal, but refused to comment.

Ken's specials

Ken Livingstone, whose GLC police committee seldom praises the Met, has been chatting with the Special Branch. Following a National Front intervention at a meeting, the police are offering Ken the fullest protection as he tramps Paddington in the run-up to his self-inflicted by-election next week.

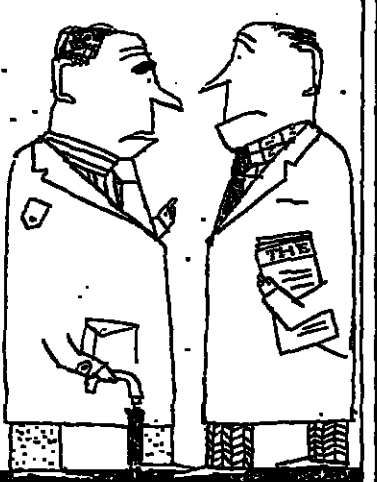
New departure

As British Airways waits for the Cabinet's decision on airline routes, the airline is already keen to spend its new-found profits. The airline has decided to change its entire public image, and has commissioned Landor Associates to help with the transformation. The firm, which has just refurbished a BA Concorde, is working on new designs for British Airways staff uniforms, the interiors and exteriors of its entire fleet of aircraft, the airline's Executive Club lounges, ground vehicles, office and airport signs, documentation... You name it, they want to change it. Even the Speedbird symbol, which has flown the flag since the BOAC days, is threatened with the axe. Yesterday BA refused to give any hint of the new image. "We don't want to spoil our new dynamism by letting it dribble out in advance."

Rat tales

I wait next month's ludicrously belated premiere of Virgin Vision's *Nineteen Eighty Four* with baited breath. During a board meeting, members were told the film, starring Richard Burton and John Hurt, was brilliant, but the rat scene was offensively macabre. Virgin Vision managing director Robert Devereux immediately responded: "Well up-end it, up-end it!" As minds boggled, one young girl at the meeting, volunteered: "At the bit when Winston walks into the room, you could have Roland Rat jumping up instead."

BARRY FANTONI



Street credibility

Forget Starksy and Hutch. When answering a 999 call, it seems the Met police is more likely to react in Keystone Cop style. The force, I am told, has just bought a computer - the Message Switching System - which gives its men a map reference for every emergency call. It is so sophisticated, it can pinpoint the spot within 100 yards. Unfortunately, the computer uses the *AA Greater London Atlas*, the police in stations and punda centres use the *Geographer's A-Z Master Atlas*. The references are not compatible. The Yard admits the blunder, and insists the computer is really for its helicopter crews (of which there are two). The local police, it says, should know their streets.

Just the picket

Michael Crick, the reporter threatened with demotion to scriptwriter by his bosses at ITN as the absurd punishment for helping me with a story on MacGregor's TV interview, has won the support of scores of men in high places - not least Arthur Scargill. During last week's TUC conference, my Brighton mole told me that when Crick was spotted on the Brighton seafront Scargill yelled: "Hello, Michael! - want to borrow any of my flying pickets?"

PHS

Don't dam the flow of facts

by Des Wilson

It is indicative of British officialdom's love of secrecy that when the 1983 Water Act created 10 substantial new water authorities with the option of meeting in public or behind closed doors, nine of them voted for secrecy - the one exception being the Welsh authority.

Water authorities spend vast sums of public money and have what are essentially powers of taxation, yet they are now freed from effective public surveillance.

The 1983 Water Act repealed the 1960 public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, introduced as a result of a private member's Bill by Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP to ensure that meetings affecting local communities should be open to the press and public. "The paramount function of this House," she said in her maiden Commons speech, "is to safeguard civil liberties rather than to think that administrative convenience should take first place in law."

Compare that with Lord Bellwin's explanation to the House of Lords of the 1983 measure: "It is impossible to function effectively as a member of such a board if at every stage one is concerned that the odd word here, the odd outspoken comment there, will hit the headlines the next day... The presence of outsiders at meetings of this kind has a profoundly inhibiting effect on discussion. People will not speak up as freely as they would in private. If we were to accept Lord Bellwin's rationale for the secrecy of water authorities, we would also have to apply it to local authorities, to the courts, even to Westminster itself."

It may surprise metropolitan readers to be told that the secrecy of water authorities is the cause of very considerable controversy in other parts of the country. In particular, there has been a major row in Yorkshire and North Humberside, where already 37 of the 51 MPs for the area and 13 local authorities, many of them Conservatives, have publicly supported a campaign to reopen the water authorities' meetings.

The concern centres on three points: first, that it is a bad principle that a public authority with such powers should not be properly accountable; second, that water rates have increased by 70 per cent in four years and no longer represent a relatively small sum that can be paid without pain; third, there is evidence of undue influence by industry on the authorities responsible for a public service.

Water authority members, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, have to balance the concerns of different consumers - agricultural, domestic and industrial. A report by the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in February of this year drew attention to the possibility that industrial influence on water authorities "could lead to purely commercial considerations assuming too dominant a role, to the detriment of wider aspects of environmental protection."

It went on to say that "in order to retain public confidence in the light of these

possibly competing claims, it is important that water authorities should be as open as possible."

The *New Scientist* earlier this year reported that four of the North-west Water Authority's 13 members were anti-renewable local industrialists.

Other authorities are no different. ICI has senior and former employees on four out of ten authorities. Imperial Tobacco has men in place on the authorities of the two regions where it has major factories.

Farmers, too, are well-represented on the water authorities: each has at least one farmer on the board and several have two. Severn-Trent has three. Pollution from agriculture in some areas is a more serious risk to rivers than industrial wastes. On a board of between 10 and 13 members, three industrialists and two farmers could have a controlling influence over pollution control and other policies.

This would matter less if the debates took place with media presence, and if the votes of those present on different issues were recorded and publicly available, but they are not.

There will be a move in the autumn to promote a private member's Bill to open up water authorities, and, with widespread Conservative support, it may succeed.

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The author is chairman of the Campaign for Freedom of Information. His book *The Secrets File* was published yesterday by Heinemann Educational.

With the launch of a 'socialist' one-party state, Geoffrey Wheatcroft considers the future of the whites who stayed to see Rhodesia become an independent, and black, Zimbabwe

Settled on a moving landscape

The one-party state is on its way in Zimbabwe, acclaimed last month by the cheering crowds of Robert Mugabe's Zanu at their first congress since independence. A 15-member "politburo" was appointed by the prime minister, who declared that the congress was a "launching platform for the transformation of the economy and the society in a socialist mould."

There are no whites in the politburo, although there are still 20 in the parliament designed by Lancaster House. Several of those have already thrown in their lot with Mugabe and left Ian Smith, a logical step despite the bitter years of the bush war.

When Rhodesia became Zimbabwe four years ago, whites were left with a choice. They could remain "Rhodesians" - but only by leaving the country and taking old, white-supremacist Rhodesia into exile in their hearts. Or they could stay behind and become Zimbabweans. Despite what had been predicted, and often against the grain, many chose the latter course.

How many is very hard to say. The white population of Rhodesia reached a peak of almost 280,000 in the early 1970s.

Today the figure is heavily reduced. There are certainly fewer than 140,000 whites in Zimbabwe, some say not many more than 100,000. For reasons of its own Mugabe's government is not keen to provide an accurate figure.

Those who stayed fell into several categories: the two most important being farmers and civil servants, the one feeding the country in difficult times, the other providing administrative continuity. Some Africans did and still do resent the *mcungu*, but they cannot do without them after four years of independence - and three years of drought.

The nearly 5,000 commercial (i.e. white) farmers dislike the government's minimum wage legislation, the pressure on them to employ "ex-combatants" and the rhetoric which encourages poor Africans to squat on the large farms. But the farmers have strong disincentives to selling up and leaving. They can scarcely leave the country with any of the proceeds, and for all the government's slogans they are now needed more than ever.

Administrators who stayed on have been less in the public eye. And yet without them the transition from Smith's Rhodesia to Mugabe's Zimbabwe would have been impossible. In one sense they could not go wrong when independence came. Financial inducements were provided for civil servants who stayed at work but at the same time those who retired early had pensions guaranteed to them by the Lancaster House agreement.

Once again, figures are unavailable for the number of whites remaining in public service, but they have gone from an overwhelming majority to a small minority in the space of four years. This is due to natural wastage and the rapid expansion of the civil service which in four years has grown from 30,000 to more than 70,000. Bigger is seen to mean better, and provides opportunities for more or less innocent patronage.

The remaining white civil ser-



An agricultural fête near Harare: good will prevails, but some changes are worrying for whites

vanis, who now number no more than a few thousand, range from inveterate and scarcely reconstructed "Rhodesians" to apolitical enthusiasts who supported the nationalist struggle. Some Zimbabwean-born whites who left the country under Smith have since returned.

It has not been a uniformly happy experience for the returned emigrants. Dr Peter Garlake is an archaeologist, "Zimbabwean" by birth and the leading authority on Great Zimbabwe, the extraordinary and haunting ruins between Harare and the Limpopo River from which the independent country took its name. He returned to Zimbabwe after independence hoping to resume work at the ruins, only to find the senior appointment there had been made on political grounds.

Whites in senior positions are now in a minority, as Africans take over. A white Zimbabwean like Mr Eddie Cross can still hold the very important job of head of the cold storage commission, based in Bulawayo, but all posts equivalent to the British ministerial permanent under-secretary are now filled by blacks. The number two position in some ministries is still held by a survivor from the old regime - Mr Gordon Mellor in the treasury is an important example - but presumably that will not be for much longer.

Despite private misgivings, few white administrators deny the essential justice of this change, recognizing that "Africanization" was inevitable. But it was carried out in a particularly unsatisfactory manner. All over Africa, the same mistake was made. A black elite was trained and sent to university (too few and too late), but little was done about training middle managers, a civil service executive class.

At independence there was a flood of Zimbabwean political exiles, returning after an absence of 15 or 20 years with plenty of degrees from American colleges but no practical experience. The problem had been exacerbated further by the hostility or plain racism of some of the Rhodesian old guard, and by the fact that in days of UDI the loyalty to the Smith government of capable and ambitious blacks was considered suspect.

What is remarkable four years on is the prevalence of good nature and good will. Men who were once ardent white supremacists now dismiss the new constitutional arrangements in South Africa as "rearranging the chairs on the deck of the Titanic", and speak with apparently unaffected enthusiasm not only of their recently acquired black colleagues, but of their recently acquired black neighbours in the leafy suburbs of Harare.

All of those who remain see their position as transitory. As one senior civil servant delicately puts it, "The usefulness of the remaining whites is becoming progressively less." They have done their best to serve the new government - the political masters whose arrival at the ministries four years ago is still described with a touch of rueful irony - and they have confidence in the black Zimbabweans whom they have trained so rapidly. "They've become just like any other civil servants," was one slightly back-handed plaudit, by which the speaker meant that there are bureaucrats giving disinterested advice which their ministers may not always like.

How long these newly fledged public servants will remain just like any other is a different question. The idea of an incorrupt and apolitical administration has proved a delicate plant in independent

Africa. Because Rhodesia was ostensibly created in a European image the roots seemed to have struck deeper there, but they may not have struck deep enough. The ideal is squeezed there today, as elsewhere in Africa, between the growth of corruption and the politicization of all public life. In Zimbabwe Mugabe's government is hotly opposed to the former, but dedicated to the latter, in pursuit of what the prime minister conceives as Marxist-Leninist socialism.

Does this leave the remaining whites with any future in Zimbabwe? They have been no more than bystanders in the real struggle for power between Mugabe and Nkomo, Shona and Ndebele tribes, within the ruling Zanu party and among the different Shona clans. A few politically active people, who gave their hearts to Mr Nkomo excepted, most whites have no time for the dissidents in Matabeleland, who have murdered too many farmers and are expensive to control. The Matabeleland grassy acres may have shocked the outside world, but to some white administrators they were no more than a necessary policing operation which got out of hand.

It is not Africanization or the Fifth Brigade which alarm the remaining whites in Zimbabwe. It is the dominance of Marxism in school curricula, the totalitarian tone of press and broadcasting, the threat of nationalization and land reform, the imminent reordering of society and economy on a "socialist" basis. Come to that, it worries a good few educated blacks as well.

Time seems to have stood still as the farmers stay behind after the last race at Borrowdale to talk business, a picture from 10 or 30 years ago which is hard to imagine surviving in 10 years' time.

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guests check out. "We bring them in the office and show them the sample, but if there is only the smell of smoke in the room we give the deposit back." She told of one very honest young man who voluntarily handed over \$100 after someone who visited him lit up in his room.

As for employee dismissals because of violations, Miss Connel said with a slight smile: "Well, there was one man who said he didn't smoke, but we learnt he was taking smoking breaks at the service station next door. When we confronted him he decided to leave."

Judy Klemesrud

© New York Times News Service, 1984

The reference to the popularity of the French government in yesterday's article by Diana Geddes should have read: "The electorate's confidence in the Government has not been restored in the intervening months."

Roger Scruton

Those rights are really duties

In a recent letter to *The Times*, Dr David Jessop raised what is perhaps the most important question for the critic of the post-war political consensus: the question of social responsibility. It is well to emphasize individual freedom, but what is the value of freedom, if the sense of duty is destroyed?

The Welfare State emerged as the consensual answer to the "Social Question" of Victorian England. And like every political solution guided by conscience, it proved not to be final. The creature of the Welfare State proved to be devoid of the very moral responsibility which had originally created him. Either he was a beneficiary of the system - in which case he began to claim as a right what had been once offered as a charity. Or he was a provider of the system's resources, in which case he was encouraged to regard the poor as beyond his personal concern, the pampered recipient of wealth which was his right and unjustly extorted.

Both parties to the new arrangement therefore suffered a diminution in the sense of responsibility: the first for his own welfare, the second for the welfare of others. At the same time the resources appropriated by the state were increasingly diverted from their intended purpose, being used to create and maintain an army of bureaucrats answerable neither to those who provided the funds, nor to those who stood in need of them.

Once the charitable gesture had been prized loose from the individual and handed over to the state, it ceased to bear the mark of human freedom. It could then be neither genuinely given nor gratefully received. No person could be praised for offering it, and no person blamed for withholding it. Indeed, no person could be discerned anywhere who might be held answerable either for his own misfortunes, or for the misfortunes of his neighbour. Human kindness gave way to mechanical "redistribution", operated by officials concerned most of all to entrench their newly granted privileges.

The Welfare State tends, therefore, to destroy both the charitable motive and the gratitude that is owed to it, by persuading everyone, both rich and poor, that hardship, even my hardship, is not my concern. The "compassionate" state is in fact a state dedicated to the abolition of compassion. It con-forms to the dangerous tendency of socialist politics: the tendency towards a public realm devoid of personal liability.

In this public realm, if I follow the rules, I need never be called to count, either for my own life, or for

the life of my neighbour. It is, incidentally, one of the strongest arguments for monarchy that it identifies the state with a human person, and so reminds us of the layer of responsibility with which every official uniform is lined.

There is surely no easy answer to Dr Jessop's question, no simple formula for reintroducing into the secular politics of a modern industrial state, this element on which its moral health depends. Certainly, it is not enough to liberate the "vested creators" from their fiscal shackles, or to "privatize" our national resources. Such moves may be economically good sense, but they will not replace impersonal privilege by individual duty. Moreover, the emphasis on wealth and its creation reinforces the ruling illusion that the problem is merely technical, to be solved by more resources, and by yet another application of the impersonal intelligence of the bureaucrats.

The vacuum at the heart of the impersonal state cannot be filled by the state itself. There is no ideology, no political goal, no scheme for redemption, no "irreversible shift" or "final solution", that will return to the political order the personal conscience which has been expelled from it. All "direct action" by the state is tainted by the impersonality that it seeks to overcome. The vacuum can be filled, therefore, only by the sacrifice involved in placing my personal answerability before any of the easy benefits that conflict with it. It is not the system that must be changed, but me myself. Responsibility is either mine or no one's. To shift the burden is to succumb precisely to the fault that is complained of. Resistance to impersonality is therefore primarily a personal concern.

But how are responsible beings created? The answer is widely known but seldom uttered. Responsibility stems from the habit of viewing our own actions from a point of view outside ourselves. Such a habit is engendered by authoritative institutions, whose edicts and expectations we learn to internalize as we mature. Everything depends on those institutions, and on their preparedness to wage war against the natural egoism of the child. At least one of these institutions, moreover - the school - is now (rightly or wrongly) in the hands of the state. Does this not provide to the state an opportunity for indirect action, that might, in the long term, tip the moral balance? It is just possible that it does. I therefore refer Dr Jessop's question to Sir Keith Joseph.

The author is editor of *The Salisbury Review*.

Phillip Whitehead

Keeper of the best traditions

There are matters of great moment to preoccupy Derbyshire today. The north and south of the county are caught on opposite sides of the great divide between strikers and working miners. In the appropriate mixture of Georgian and Ruritanian which is the Buxton spa, the nervous Social Democrats follow their one-man band, uneasily aware that the tune is changing. But sometime between 11 and six today there will be miners on the picket line and aggressive moderates in the wine bars who wish they were at the Racecourse Ground, Derby, where Bob Taylor plays his last day's cricket for Derbyshire.

He is back where it all began, on the county ground that never looks quite right. The cathedral is too far away. Smoke often muddies the sunlight, something that is being amplified behind the inadequate trees on the boundary. But the setting is suitable.

Taylor's merits as the best wicket-keeper of his time, the 50 England caps that came to him after his 36th birthday, will receive their tribute elsewhere in these columns from a more appropriate hand. My purpose is rather to lament that Taylor takes with him into retirement many of the virtues of the summer game, of which he has always been the example. Continuity, consistency and cooperation are what it used to teach, and for a while after the old absurd class snobberies had been shaken off they survived, until the coming of the truckster age.

Continuity first, the quiet pride in a professional lifespan, was a mainstay of county cricket. Derbyshire has had only three regular wicket-keepers since 1920: Elliott, Dawkes, and Taylor. Four sovereigns, a dozen prime ministers and prelates, have come and gone while these three entertained us. You will find them in the records among the 20 most voracious keepers of all time, and Bob Taylor leads that company.

When he began, nearly a quarter century ago, he kept wicket to a team with names like the roll call in a miners' lodge, Harold, Edwin, Les, George. Foreign mercenaries were almost unknown, although the county welcomed men from across the border in Yorkshire who had been pushed out of first-class cricket, and from Staffordshire who could not get into it. Very soon his exceptional talents were recognized - except by the national selectors.

Northerners harbour a suspicion that the southern folk look after their own in these matters. Taylor seemed doomed to be the perpetual understudy of the younger Alan Knott, allowed to star in just a single Test Match in New Zealand in 1970, except by the national selectors.

There are many other things to concern us today. It may seem eccentric to mark the retirement of a cricketer. But there are quite a few who will make their way through the September haze to Derby, to say farewell to the valiant umpire.

until the Packer affair broke, and the cricket world was split asunder.

Suddenly, in his thirty-seventh year, he was called to fill the breach. He has done it 50 times since. The selectors, as ungracious as a Yorkshire committee, have snubbed him when they could, on one occasion immediately after he had returned from a difficult tour with the world record for dismissals in his gloves. Time after time they had to call him back, until this year, when he was displaced by Dowson and could see that it was for good. Today he retires, at 43, still the head of his profession, as supple as a boy of 20 summers.

He has been an ambassador everywhere for what cricket ought to be, a game which does not confuse competition with coercion, or proper reward with sullen excess. I have seen him keeping wicket in the heat of Madras, in a game meandering to a draw, with all the zip you have to have to stay unfrozen on the little ground at Buxton, where snow can stop play in June. Where other great ones in the England team too often sulk in their tents, he is always out in the heat of battle, even if the conflict is waged before three pensioners and a dog in Burton-on-Trent.

To this consistency I add cooperation. The mark of the sportsman is how much he helps others. With a particular skill that complements others on the field, and is never independent of them, the man behind the stumps cannot be selfish. Taylor has set the same example off the field as on it, while the game has changed around him, and has never become the creature of commerce. He never took Packer's stalling for the easy pickings of the circus. Nor has he sold himself for a crock of Krugerrands, like other stars near the end of their careers who ignored both the moral and practical consequences of their decision to play in South Africa.

Having enriched and entertained many he will step aside (unlike another tormented 43-year-old a few miles north) without great wealth but in high esteem. In an age where sport is packaged and sponsored, where the penulthood and posturing on the field find their way via the terrace into other aspects of national life, the contrary example also counts - when we can find it.

There are many other things to concern us today. It may seem eccentric to mark the retirement of a cricketer. But there are quite a few who will make their way through the September haze to Derby, to say farewell to the valiant umpire.

The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.



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THE UNFORGED ALLIANCE

The Social Democrats' relations with the Liberal Party are not on the SDP's formal agenda at its conference this year. It was supposed to have been settled a year ago that each party in the Alliance would go its own way in association with but quite independently of the other. Despite the pressure from within the Liberal Party for a closer permanent relationship even if not an amalgamation, between the two allies, the "official" position of the SDP (certainly to the extent that true doctrine is that which is expounded by its leader, Dr Owen) is that the SDP fully reserves the right to go completely independent after the next election. The underlying reason for Dr Owen's insistence on the independence of his party is his determination to keep it in a position from which it can capture the support of moderate Labour voters - becoming the general heir in spirit (though emphatically not in detailed policies) of the old Gaitskellites.

The Gaitskellite tradition is, however, very much modified by Dr Owen and his supporters as they seek to respond to the circumstances of a changed political world. He wants the SDP to support competitive liberal economics as well as compassion in welfare. He is in favour of a certain redistribution of wealth, but not of egalitarianism.

We are only sixteen months into this Parliament. The Prime Minister is quite right not to have musical chairs with her Cabinet. Short tenure is one of the causes of ministerial ineffectiveness. It is better to leave ministers where they are, unless obvious misfits or worn out, until some general argument for change arises, such as an electoral requirement to give a government a new and more interesting appearance, or pressure from below for promotion which cannot be prudently ignored, or a crack of the whip by the Prime Minister (there have been several recently and the need has now receded). Ministers of average competence who foul up some departmental exercise, like Mr Patrick Jenkin at environment, can profit by their mistakes if left with the opportunity to do so. Lord Hailsham, the distinguished veteran of the Cabinet, keeps the Woolpack warm nicely until a more convenient moment. So all Mrs Thatcher had to do was find a replacement for Mr Prior.

She has also taken the opportunity to make two new Cabinet ministers without portfolio. Lord Gower and Mr David Young of the Manpower Services Commission, who will receive a peerage. This latter is the most intriguing, and potentially most important, appointment in the package, provided that Mr Young's full talents will be at the Prime Minister's personal call, rather than lost in the maw of a major department.

The Cabinet is narrower for the loss of Mr Prior. In respect of his coded or semi-private disagreements about the direction of economic policy, less obtrusive now than earlier events have shown the Prime Minister to have the better

He argues for selective welfare provision according to need, and not blanket provision in the name of equality. He is passionately in favour of our present commitment to the Western Alliance, and is opposed to unilateral nuclear disarmament - which is one reason for his extreme wariness in dealing with a Liberal Party which has its own vociferous unilateralist wing.

In short, the argument over the Liberal connexion is intimately connected with the equally unresolved question about what sort of party the SDP should be, and although these matters are not on the agenda they have already been shown to be dominant in the minds of those attending the conference at Buxton. Yesterday both Mrs Shirley Williams, the SDP's president, and Mr Roy Jenkins, its former leader, made speeches revealing how disunited the leadership remains on these questions. Mr Jenkins attacked "Thatcherism" in terms so forthright as implicitly to distance himself from Dr Owen's endorsement of much of the Government's emphasis on economic competitiveness. The former SDP leader accused the Prime Minister of being responsible for undermining moderation on both the left and the right of politics. But more notable still, the end of his

speech was implicitly an attack on Dr Owen's own policies, since Mr Jenkins declared himself in favour of the Alliance being "a union of hearts working permanently together and not just a temporary arrangement of opportunism and convenience".

Mrs Williams sees the relationship between the two parties as "Not an alliance of expediency but a lasting alliance of principle". But is it? That will remain the unresolved question when this year's conference has ended. Two camps lay claim to the Gaitskellite tradition. The Jenkins-Williams camp are the fundamentalists. They are egalitarians in the Croslandian sense, and they appear to be more naturally attracted to the Whiggish attitudes of the Liberal Party. The Owen camp is revisionist. It is trying to redefine Gaitskellism more realistically for a world in which growth no longer offers the delusion of a cornucopia of welfare.

He is also trying to make the SDP a popular, and perhaps a populist, party which appeals particularly to disaffected Labour moderates. But can such Labour voters be won over to the notion of selective welfare, according to need and to the real implications of a competitive society - not least for the unions? That is the root question for the SDP which will remain to be settled after Buxton.

CABINET MAKING

judgment. But he is a substantial political figure who is not one of Mrs Thatcher's creations, and he represents an element of the Tory party, of a consensual, pragmatic and patronal flavour, which balances Mrs Thatcher's "conviction politics" and remains of some consequence in the country.

Between his reluctant arrival and his slow-motion departure Mr Prior has been one of the most respected proconsuls in Ulster. It is true that a score board of particular achievements would look thin. The elusive "acceptable level of violence" eludes the administration still. Some of the indicators of terrorist violence are better now than in 1981, the year he took over, some much the same, some worse. Shooting incidents are down by three-quarters, explosions by a third, but armed robberies up by a fifth. Deaths of civilians are well down, of soldiers including the Ulster Defence Regiment about the same.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary during Mr Prior's term has continued to assume more of the active responsibility for combating terrorist crime; but its reputation for even-handedness and truth telling has been seriously damaged of late on the Roman Catholic side of the community, and so to a less extent has that of the judiciary. Mr Prior came in to a hunger strike of republican prisoners; he goes out to a hunger strike of "loyalist" prisoners. Two months after he came the Rev Robert Bradford, M.P., was shot dead in the streets of Belfast nine months before he left Assemblyman Edgar Graham was shot dead in the streets of Belfast.

These comparisons are a better measurement of the in-

tractable and sanguinary quarrel in the province, than of the Secretary of State's stewardship. Mr Prior made an initial misjudgment of the local politicians' readiness for devolution on Westminster's terms, and the elections to his partly boycotted assembly were a steppingstone in Sinn Féin's rise to electoral importance. But then he formed a clear understanding of the positions and habits of mind of the different parties to the Ulster problem, including official Dublin. He applied a strong and steady judgment to his task. He inspired trust, which is not an easy thing to do in that community.

He leaves Ulster as he found it with security, its inadequacies and offences, the chief public preoccupations behind that, and thanks in no small measure to Mr Prior's patience and tact, there is at a political level the glimmerings of a disposition to see what can be made of the analysis put forward in the Forum report and the greater realism cultivated by the Irish Government.

That is for his successor to judge. Mrs Thatcher has chosen an able and articulate minister of second-rank status and given him an abrasive lieutenant. That will be criticized in both parts of Ireland as evidence of the British government's marginalization of the Irish problem, reacting to its eruptions as they occur but neglecting to treat its underlying causes. The criticism is founded in a view of the problem's susceptibility to treatment that experience does not bear out. Dublin certainly will hope that the appointment is a sign that the Prime Minister means to exert her own formidable political will directly in the next phase of British policy towards Ireland, North and South.

STILL IN TRANSITION

Tomorrow's fourth anniversary of the military take over generally seen inside and outside the country as a necessary and justified response to extremist violence which a paralysed parliamentary system was powerless to check, sees Turkey with civil peace, a new constitution, an elected parliament and a civilian government. Political leaders of the former period have been banned from public life and their parties dissolved. New parties and new leaders have been allowed to emerge only after the most rigorous military vetting.

Turkey is not yet fully democratic, and does not claim to be. But it does boast a constitutional structure, designed to ensure as much freedom as would be feasible in the circumstances, which have proved acceptable *ad interim* to the vast majority of Turks. Its various blemishes should have largely disappeared, and the full "democratic normalisation" demanded by the Council of Europe achieved, by the time of the next general election in 1988.

That is the argument put forward by Mr Kenneth Mackenzie in a recent pamphlet (*Turkey: In Transition*). The West's Neglected Ally - European Security Studies No. 1, published by The Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, and more generally by the friends and advocates of the present regime in the West.

The first sentence is no doubt broadly correct. The second is an

expression of hope which all genuine friends of Turkey whatever their political persuasion must share. But is it justified?

For the time being Mr Turgut Ozal's government is concentrating its main energies on economic policy. In a daring reversal of a tradition going back to Atatürk it has thrown the country open to foreign investment and foreign competition. The shock to Turkish industry may prove salutary in the long run but is well nigh devastating in the short. Meanwhile law and order in the main cities, and in the Kurdish East, are left in the hands of the armed forces.

The continuing detention of non-violent alleged Marxists, such as the leaders of the Turkish Peace Association, the apparently undiminished use of torture in interrogating prisoners, the prosecution of intellectuals, who signed a mildly phrased document, urging an end to such abuses, the strict limits on the press which prevented publication of any part of this document even when the Prime Minister himself quoted it in a press conference - all this has been recently mentioned in these columns. It should be added that the imposition of ideological conformity on the universities continues unchanged under the new government.

It is at this point that Turkey's Western friends must begin to feel some unease. The terrorism that plagued Turkey before 1980 was at least as much the work of

the Extreme Right as the Extreme Left, and the military intervention was ostensibly directed equally against both. Indeed the leader of the extreme Right Nationalist Action party, (NAP), Mr Alpaslan Türkeş remains in prison and a recent attempt to free him by friends within the armed forces is known to have been severely punished. Yet friends of Mr Türkeş and former members of his party occupy many important posts in the administration and form perhaps the most influential element within the Motherland party.

In particular they have taken effective control of the State Radio and TV Corporation, whose new director was formerly a senior figure in the NAP ideology department. Another former NAP member is Secretary of the Ministry of Employment.

The latest development, even more sinister, is the appointment of two deputy directors of the National Police Force, one of whom was in charge of the torture centre in Ankara during the previous military regime in 1971 and had since been kept out of sight, while the other's name was found among the secret documents of the NAP as the future director of the National Police Force had the NAP captured power. Such appointments raise the question whether the 1980 intervention was really a comprehensive defeat for terrorism as its authors claimed.

Pit strike and a Bill of Rights

From Professor Graham Zellick

Sir, Neither a written Constitution nor a Bill of Rights would have made the slightest difference to the miners' strike (letter from the headmaster of Tonbridge School, September 3).

It is highly unlikely that the trade union and industrial relations legislation would fall foul of a Bill of Rights, and it is naive to suppose that trade unionists would have more confidence in judges applying a Bill of Rights than they have in those same judges applying the legislation in question.

As for the police actions, they can be challenged now under ordinary common law principles. There may be arguments for a Bill of Rights, but averting a miners' strike is not one of them.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ZELICK,
Queen Mary College,
University of London,
Faculty of Laws,
Mile End Road, E1,
September 7.

From Miss Kathleen Gibberd

Sir, I don't think anyone has pointed out in the pursuance of any shining enterprise you will almost certainly miss your objective if you insist on being too explicit about the means of reaching it. We deceive ourselves with written Constitutions, manifestoes and formulas.

I wonder if any very old Russians wake up in the night and wonder if so much Marxism-Leninism talk is really what they endured all that childhood hunger for. I also wonder if I am the only *Times* reader who wakes up to worry about the market forces formula that did not help the poor when it was tried before.

But one formula, provokes another, as we have seen in the mining dispute. The only answer is conciliation, as any housewife mother knows. It may entail compromise, but you don't call it that, as faces have to be saved, whether they belong to ten-year-olds or men over fifty.

Women have more experience of this, isn't it time they were called in to help a new kind of *Acas*?

Yours faithfully,
KATHLEEN GIBBERD,
Southsea,
Near Lewes,
East Sussex,
September 6.

A vanished cry

From Mr Peter W. Heath

Sir, I would like to refer to John Ticehurst's letter to you, published on September 4.

The rag and bone man was not consciously offering a service to the community - worthwhile or otherwise. He was trying to make a living. Revenue would need full information of his income and outgoings.

The modern replacements of his activities include all the various charity shops, occupying cheap short term leases, staffed by unpaid volunteers and whose workings are exempt from VAT and income tax. In addition district councils collect unwanted items either free or for a fee (but never giving money) and may do some sorting to recover part of their high collection and transport costs.

The county councils at their publicly available reception centres may organise some form of sorting to offset their high acceptance and disposal costs.

Recycling only makes sense when it shows an economic profit which becomes increasingly difficult as wage rates rise. In the USA some local authorities believe that recycling is cost effective provided the waste is sorted initially by the householder (e.g. into paper, glass, metals and refuse) and kept separate throughout the collection and disposal processes.

In Britain whilst every factory will have its own waste management plan for recycling, similar planning for householders' rubbish is almost impossible so long as the law decrees that collection is the responsibility of the districts and disposal is the responsibility of the counties.

Yours faithfully,
PETER W. HEATH,
The Bakers House,
Matfield,
Tonbridge, Kent,
September 5.

Airline competition

From Mr N. V. Bevan

Sir, It is a pity that the Chairman of Britannia Airways (August 31) should choose your columns to extol the virtues of his airline. In his exalted position it was clearly right that you should let him have his say. However, those of us unfortunate enough to have travelled back from Minorca on August 17, on a charter flight, would share the view that the high standards of service to which he refers were sadly lacking.

Twenty or more of us were left stranded when it became apparent that our plane was overbooked. Our discomfort over a period of hours in a hot and crowded airport can be imagined, particularly since our party included three under six and a pregnant mother. What made things even worse, however, was the complete absence of any representative of the airline with whom we could discuss our predicament.

Clearly the smaller airlines have to cut down on overheads, but to allow the overbooking (as fairly

The acid test on cure for acid rain

From the Chairman of The Bow Group

Sir, Your acid welcome to the House of Commons select committee report on acid rain ("An acid report", September 7) is profoundly disappointing, but it does have the merit of clearly identifying the issues involved in this important debate.

The choice is between waiting for major improvements which are "in clear prospect" and taking measures now "to bring quicker reductions at far higher cost" - and you prefer the former. Meanwhile all over Europe trees are withering, fish are dying and stonework is crumbling. We wait and irretrievable damage is being done to our precious environment. As a result, I, and no doubt others in the Conservative Party, would call for an urgent appraisal of the solutions, which are available now.

There are three reasons why your cautious approach (and that of the Government) should be rejected. First, how clear is the prospect of major improvements in the medium term? Mr Waldegrave described himself in his evidence to the committee as a "technological pessimist" in the context of discussing fluidized bed combustion on which your (and the CEB's) hopes are pinned.

He is right. As the author of the recent Bow Group report on acid rain (*A role for Britain in the acid rainstorm*), Tony Paterson, found when he visited the CEBG with a group of Tory MPs in June, the CEBG says little about today's developing technology (flue-gas desulfurization - FGD) but escapes into technological fantasy at the drop of a hat.

Secondly, there is the question of the cost of retrofitting FGD to existing power stations. Press reports (including your own) linked the committee's recommendations with the immediate CEBG assertion that their implementation would lead to a 10 per cent increase in electricity prices. As you say, the key point is that any increase would be phased in over 10 years, but are the CEBG's estimates true?

In oral evidence to the committee the CEBG said that to cut its own emissions by 60 per cent by 1995 would put up prices by 5 per cent over 10 years (0.5 per cent annually). It would certainly cost more (but not twice as much) to cut the CEBG's emissions to comply with the EC draft directive's requirement of a 60 per cent cut by 1995 for all large combustion plants (i.e. including general industry). If the CEBG met this requirement alone, 16 fossil-fuelled power stations would then need FGD retrofitting at a capital cost of £144m each instead of the 10 if the 60 per cent cut applied across the board.

The former option would add 7.5 per cent to electricity prices over 10 years, the latter 5 per cent. The justification for adopting the first

option is that because the CEBG has made only small reductions in its emissions over the past 20 years, it should be a disproportionate burden now and also, because environmental protection is a public good, the cost should be spread as widely as possible.

Finally, Sir, you underestimate the political importance of taking action now. This generation has the responsibility of taking measures to protect the environment in order that there is an environment left for future generations to enjoy. It is more important that the public good of environmental protection is paid for by the public through higher electricity prices than that the public pays for the private greed of Mr Scargill by subsidizing an inefficient coal industry in the same way.

This growing realization in the Conservative Party will surface at next month's party conference in Brighton. The Government's position of tamely trailing along at the back of the international pack is unlikely to prove acceptable for much longer with the public or to an increasingly conservation-conscious party.

How the Government deals with the committee's recommendations will be an acid test, in every sense of those words.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL LINGENS, Chairman,
The Bow Group,
240 High Holborn, WC1,
September 9.

From Mr C. Rose and Dr C. D. Holman

Sir, You observe (leader, September 7) that if cutting back the emissions from power stations which give rise to acid rain should lead to "a 10 per cent increase in electricity prices between now and 1995" it is "not necessarily a prospect to make the blood run cold". We agree. But you also ask: "how much have they (the prices) gone up since 1973?"

In fact, between 1973 and 1984 electricity supplied to the domestic consumer rose from 0.962p per kWh to 5.372p per kWh, an increase of 45.5 per cent in real terms. Ten per cent over 10 years therefore appears a small price to pay to help save our cathedrals, lakes, rivers and forests.

But, as we pointed out to the House of Commons committee which reported on acid rain, with a little thrift the cure could be cheaper and more effective. Trimming just 5 per cent from the CEBG's projected rise in electricity consumption (Scenario "C" put forward by the board at the Sizewell inquiry) would enable us to implement the EEC's proposed 60 per cent cut in SO₂ at a cost of 3-4 per cent over 10 years.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS ROSE,
CLAIRE HOLMAN,
Friends of the Earth,
377 City Road, EC1,
September 7.

Heroic nation

From Mr P. D. Cutting

Sir, I refer to the article (September 3) by Mr John Pearnman concerning a hard line on hard drugs.

I write to take issue with any suggestion that I welcome my early retirement in the face of our heroin seizures. It is common ground that the heroin situation is serious in the extreme and complacency would be out of place. But it is also true that the United Kingdom law-enforcement response to the heroin problem (and in this the customs service plays a crucial role) is arguably the best in the world.

I totally refute any suggestion that my slightly early retirement, which for personal reasons I welcome, is in any way connected with a feeling that the customs response to the heroin traffic leaves it out of control. It is not. Indeed, if that were the case I would feel a moral obligation to remain part of the battle as long as the rules allowed and I could make an effective contribution.

May I, almost as an aside, express the personal view that the British public is probably quite unaware of the tremendous contribution to this battle which is made by several hundreds of very dedicated and capable civil servants.

Yours faithfully,
PETER D. CUTTING,
Chief Investigation Officer,
HM Customs and Excise,
14 New Fetter Lane, EC4.

Neglected outpost

From Dr C. J. Terry

Sir, The British Consulate in Stuttgart is to be closed in December. There will no longer be an HM Consul in Baden-Württemberg, though honorary consuls may be appointed.

In view of the fact that Baden

common practice we gather) and then to have no facilities for helping those in difficulty seems to be taking things too far.

As it stands at present Mr Davidson and his company have profited from my buying seats off them which they were unable to supply.

Yours sincerely,
NICK BEVAN,
Ingram's Hall,
The Schools,
Shrewsbury,
Salop.

Post script

From Dr A. S. Osley

Sir, The chancery hand ("italic") of the 16th century arose to meet the need of secretaries to deal rapidly with masses of official correspondence. It was not found wanting. Fashion changed, and the broad pen, held comfortably at a consistent angle, gave way to a soft-pointed nib, which had to be pressed down to make letters imitating the leisurely script of the copper-plate engraver.

Letters to the Editor

From Mr Graham Greene, CH

Sir, One supposes that if Catholic bishops, like Anglican bishops, were made members of the House of Lords, the present Pope, if he proved logical, would tell them either to refuse their seats or cease to fulfill their priestly functions, especially if they supported the governing party with their votes.

But in fact would he? Unlike John XXIII he himself seems to take a political and partisan line. To him, as to President Reagan, Marxism is the great enemy, black against white, and the word Marxist becomes more and more a vague term of abuse. Is anyone completely Marxist any more than any one is completely Christian?

Doubt like the conscience is inherent in human nature (perhaps they are the same thing) but one might expect the Pope to remember that Mary, as a historian condemned Henry VIII for closing the monasteries.

Yours truly,
GRAHAM GREENE,
As from Antibes, France,
September 8.

Shareholders' interest

From Mr Edgar Palamounian

Sir, Sir Fred Catherwood (August 30) is quite right to criticize mergers, although not entirely for the reasons he gives.

The strongest element in the case against mergers is the conflict of interest which they embody or create between management and shareholders. Rarely the owners of more than a few dozen shares themselves, executive directors and senior managers inevitably see their interest in terms of the sheer size of the company which employs them; an increase in size justifies a bigger office, a bigger car and usually, also, a higher salary and consequent pension.

The interest of the shareholder, on the other hand, resides solely in earnings per share; and unfortunately there is no evidence of a correlation between size and profitability.

All too often the result of a merger is a decline in relative per share earnings: the whole is worse than the sum of the parts. The only winners (apart from the management) are the shareholders of "victim" companies who are usually able to sell their holdings at a considerable profit - provided their directors are unsuccessful in persuading them to resist the bid. Thus it has come about, most regrettably, that mergers have exposed the executive director as the shareholders' worst enemy.

The answer to this particular problem cannot lie wholly in regulation. The remedy lies in the hands of the shareholders, and especially of the institutions and their representative bodies. But these, with a few honourable exceptions, have so far shown themselves unable or unwilling to do anything about it.

Yours faithfully,
EDGAR PALAMOUNIAN,
Chairman,
Wider Share Ownership Council,
Juxon House,
94 St Paul's Churchyard, EC4,
August 30.

A burnt-out case

From Mr Gordon Martin

Sir, Whether, like Mr Drysdal (September 4), one should take *The Times* only for the pleasure afforded by misprints is perhaps questionable. But there is no doubt that they can sometimes add to the richness of the language.

Thus, on August 29, I was pleased to see your Labour correspondent's front-page report of "confusion" at a Bristol dockers' meeting on support for the coal-miners.

In a situation where combustion is at the heart of the matter, and confusion is so patently widespread, confusion seemed to me a particularly happy, albeit accidental, invention by your computer.

Yours sincerely,
GORDON MARTIN,
c/o BORDEN Broadcasting Corporation,
Bush House,
Strand, WC2,
September 5.

Thought for the day

From Mr R. M. Maxtone Graham

Sir, As "He has bubbles in his thinking" dates, according to Partridge, from 1908, long before armoured tanks were first used in 1916, any translation using *blinde* must be an anachronism (letter, August 29).

Cure would do; but as I see the think tank to be a conversation pit in which learned men throw doubt on the wisdom of others, may I suggest *fosse sceptique* as a suitably absurd translation?

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MAXTONE GRAHAM,
6 Moat Sole,
Sandwich,
Kent.

Gannet cull

From Mr Richard Johns

Sir, I should like to take this opportunity to express the strongest support for Mr Barlow (September 6) and the traditions of the people of Ness.

I live in the long-sanitised south of England, which has no mountains, no real weather, no unharassed countryside and little wildlife.

Having shamelessly evicted the last two, can it be that the south is trying to purge its own destructive immorality by forcing the people of Ness to feel as guilty about killing gannets as the New Southern Conscience requires of its subjects?

I rather think it can.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD JOHNS,
10 Sunnyfield Gardens,
Hockley,
Essex,
September 6.

From Mr D. G. Taylor

Sir, Mr Barlow writes of the dietary habits of the good people of Ness. Should we not, Sir, be doing something to encourage the honest citizens of London to eat more pigeon pie?

Yours faithfully,
D. G. TAYLOR,
31 Artillery Mansions,
Victoria Street, SW1,
September 7.

THE ARTS

Galleries

The uncontrollable kept under control

Danish Painting: The Golden Age
National Gallery

The Age of Vermeer and De Hooch
Royal Academy

Which is better, the minor side of a major art, or the major side of a minor? Certainly every now and again, confronted by something like the Armand Hammer Collection, one finds oneself stunned by the first-rate works of second-class painters and strangely unmoved by the second-rate works from first-class talents. Better, say, one of Sargent's masterpieces than one of Rembrandt's misfires. Sometimes it goes even further. Last year I found myself wondering why I was bowled over by the Hodder show at the Petit Palais, and relatively unexcited by the definitive Manet show right opposite at the Grand Palais. After all, everyone knows Manet is a great master and a key figure in the development of modern art, while Hodder is reputed to be just a big fish in the small pond of Swiss art. Can my instincts be right, or should I go and wash my mind out immediately?

Fortunately these questions seldom present themselves as an either/or choice. In London at the moment, for instance, one can and should perfectly easily go to see both the big historical shows which have just opened, Danish Painting: The Golden Age at the National Gallery (until November 20) and The Age of Vermeer and De Hooch at the Royal Academy (until November 18), without ever probably feeling the need to compare them or fuss over what is major and what is minor. But the coincidence of their opening thrusts the critic willy-nilly into invidious comparisons. There are after all, great names in the Dutch exhibition, while how many people in this country have even heard of Eckersberg or Kobbé? Everyone knows that seventeenth-century

Dutch art represents one of the golden ages in the art of the world, while the golden age of something so marginal as Danish art can surely be of only very modest interest and pretension.

No doubt the Danish show's lack of pretension is one of its greatest charms. Just as Denmark itself seems sometimes like a toy country, all laid out on a convenient domestic scale across a nursery floor, so its painting seems at almost any stage in its development — until, at least, the nightmarish visions of Asger Jorn — to be small-scale, neat, quiet, manageable.

The so-called golden age of Danish art runs from 1800 to 1848, or thereabouts, and coincides very much with the Biedermeier period in the arts of Central Europe — what the Victorians and Albert, in a memorable show a few years ago, dubbed "the Age of Schubert". Danish painting celebrates the same homely virtues: sober scenes of family life, portraits with the cool, level gaze of people who know very precisely who they are, landscapes featuring dusty, well-trodden country roads, cows in flat fields, and always a strong human presence, and smooth, comfortable seascapes where no tempest ever seems to rage.

That sounds like a stodgy, complacent art, but oddly enough it does not come over that way. We need only remember that the period began with the Napoleonic Wars (Battle of Copenhagen, 1801) and ended with the Year of Revolutions, and it becomes evident that all of this is an edgy assertion of an ideal rather than an unquestioning picture of the way things were. There are tensions and conflicts just beneath the surface, and what gives these paintings their peculiar power is their role as strategists to keep the uncontrollable under control.

Also, of course, the talents of the individual painters, and the intensity of their Danishness. Many of these painters studied in Rome — a moment gracefully commemorated in Constantin Hansen's informal-looking group portrait of seven Danish artists against a window of

glowing Italian sunlight — and they had much in common with their German contemporaries who did likewise. But there is an unmistakable local flavour here which marks out Danish painting as an independent stream rather than a backwater of something else. And, in a group of, say, the least, well-known competence, Eckersberg (the father-figure of the school), Abildgaard and Kobbé stand out as painters of strong and distinctive gifts.

Abildgaard, who died in 1809, is represented by one decidedly weird picture, an *Episode from Terence*, which projects a strange, menacing atmosphere quite remote from the farce of its inspiration. Eckersberg has 14 canvases included — enough to glimpse his extraordinary variety through mythological scenes, seascapes, landscapes and several of his exquisitely formal portraits, like the double portrait of *Bella and Hanna Nathanson*, one of them concentrating totally on a parrot in a cage and the other looking out at us with that level, unflinching gaze so characteristic of Danish painting at this time. Kobbé is the master particularly of the uneventful Danish landscape, and, if one were to pick one painting which sums up the calm, the simplicity and the flat, even light of the Danish countryside to unforgettable effect, it would probably have to be Kobbé's *View of a Lake in Copenhagen*. They may all, *sub specie aeternitatis*, be minor masters, but, when minor masters can go to such major pleasure, who is going to argue over the theoretical niceties of rank?

There are major masters prominently displayed in *The Age of Vermeer and De Hooch* — with Vermeer, De Hooch and Hals for starters, you are not doing too badly. One might wonder, though, why no Rembrandt, either in the title or in the show. To explain that we have to turn to the more accurate American title, *Masters of Seventeenth-Century Dutch Genre Painting*. Master Rembrandt undoubtedly was, but he went in hardly at all for genre painting as the organizers define it, painting of everyday life in streets and houses,

without being primarily portrait or religious or even (though here the show does admit a few exceptions) allegorical.

The collection has been carefully assembled from far and wide, and as arranged in London (infinitely better than the drab and unimaginative hang to which it was subjected in Berlin), incidentally, so full marks to the Academy as well as to American Express for sponsoring the British showing. It charts clearly and informatively the rise of this particularly Dutch form, its independent development as well as the outside, especially Italian, influences to which it was subject, and the different approaches to the subject-matter in different centres or in the work of idiosyncratic individuals like Jan Steen.

Beyond that, it is very much a matter of how you personally respond to all this grotesquerie and outright ugliness. There are, of course, some of the classic Dutch interiors, featuring the gentle play of light over surfaces and the delicate harmonies of tone which have made Vermeer such a revered figure during the last hundred years — and from this show it is evident that no one else does it even half as well as he. There are also striking pieces of chiaroscuro in such outstanding examples of the sub-genre concerned with soldiers' life as Willem Duysser's *Soldiers Beside a Fireplace*, and pleasingly unexpected excursions into rococo fantasy such as Nicholas Berchem's *A Moor Presenting a Parrot to a Lady* or obsessively minute realism like Job Berckheyde's *The Baker*.

Otherwise it is mostly the grubby, seamy side of life which is featured, and many may find the show an odd let-down — unless they realize from the outset exactly what they are in for. It does not show the major works of the Dutch golden age (except for the four Vermeers), but in the main the minor league, within a very specialized field. Art historians will no doubt be fascinated, but for the rest this may be slightly too much of an admittedly good thing.

John Russell Taylor



The unflinching Danish gaze: Eckersberg's *Bella and Hanna Nathanson* (detail)

Television
Wasted stamina

One applauded the endurance of Michael York who, to make last night's *Dossiers* on BBC2, lived with them for five days a week for three months but could not help wondering if the time might not have been better used. This is not to avert one's eyes from the problem. Even without this close focus, London's 2,000 *dossiers* are fairly visible, especially in the Waterloo area where the programme was made, but it added nothing to our knowledge and emerged as morbid voyeurism.

There was only one cheery figure who, while complaining about the universality of soap, said that one could eat in London every five minutes of the day and seemed set to give a gourmet's guide. But Mr York was off to his principal characters. There were six of these unfortunate people, two of them, who bore the brunt of the camerawork, married, and we watched their saddening days hopelessly.

At the end — it almost seemed to last three months — we were told of their subsequent fates. Two had died, one by falling down some stairs, the other when his meths ignited; another had lost an eye at the feet of some punks, who took 23p; and the married couple, after adding to their tally of arrests, were now living in a council flat.

The BBC, for the sake of realism — which might escape us but for television — left all the bad language in and, I am told, paid out fees after the filming. I hope it came in time for the people who died.

Lord Grimond — not quite good old Jo in the mind perhaps, but surely somewhere near that — features in the new series of *The 20th Century Remembered*, on BBC1, which has been quite good.

Last night's programme was fairly tame stuff, with Lord Grimond jokingly remembering boyhood — which he has admitted was extremely sheltered and pampered — putting the interviewer Keith Kyle to rights about exactly which class he came from and leaving me in some confusion, and talking about early days in the army and politics.

On the way he was rather hard on Gandhi, who accepted his invitation to address the Political Society at Eton. The young Grimond and his contemporaries found him exceedingly long-winded, evasive and rather devious. One could not help speculating on what Mr Gandhi might have made of the young Etonians, but one must stay with Mr Grimond, who has a long way to go and much to tell.

Dennis Hackett

Promenade Concerts

A great orchestra with an idiosyncratic style all its own

Vienna PO/Abbado
Albert Hall/Radio 3

There can be few more sophisticated musical instruments in the world than the Vienna Philharmonic, and Claudio Abbado plays upon it with consummate skill. The sound is warm, easy, cultivated and, especially in the woodwind section,

distinctive. The orchestra can sound bland, under Böhm in his late years it seemed to go to sleep, under Bernstein in his purple period it visibly shuddered his histrionics. But Abbado brings out the very best in it — and this is presumably a relationship which will become increasingly important when he takes over the Vienna State Opera whose orchestra is his members provide.

The mirror turned inwards

The Promenaders, who have a way of greeting visiting orchestras with heart-warming generosity and bewilderingly bad jokes, exuberantly welcomed back the Vienna Philharmonic on Sunday afternoon.

After Saturday's Mozart and Bruckner, they turned to Beethoven and Schubert. But it was less any particularly illuminating revelation about composers and contexts that came out of their performance than a reinforced impression of the orchestra's own character, glancing only obliquely at the works in hand. What they choose to do, they do to such perfection that the mirror can often be turned almost exclusively on themselves.

Claudio Abbado has only to breathe on them with his baton and they stir, bend and rattle to

bewitching effect in the opening of Beethoven's Fourth Symphony, as sound grows and becomes formed out of void; but to less disinterested effect in the dusky, soft-focused slow movement or in the Menuetto's smooth-boned syncopations and over-soft centre.

Here the point is not, other than superficially, sound itself and its genesis: there is a singing voice which needs no support to take its proper place in the whole. I found myself aching for the clearer air of drier timpani, reedier strings, yet in the greatest performances, of course, contemporary idiom never turns out to be the sole preserve of contemporary instruments.

In the Schubert Great C major, too, care tended to be lavished on the upholstery rather than at the expense of the

frame. Responses were drawn back, rubato became round, tugging for dear life at the work's rhythmic uprightness. But what made the Schubert more resilient and satisfying was the remarkable balance Abbado found between the work's density and transparency, its weight and its light suspension.

In setting tempi which enabled him to listen to every flicker of the orchestra's pulse, he turned the meticulous ensemble of the strings, the bright voices of the wind, round deep into the "licking" centre of the work. Undercurrents of counterpoint were stirred up, sequence and repetition insistently reinforced, and a bold new momentum generated.

Hilary Finch

Brilliance and blend

Taverner Choir/Parrott
Albert Hall/Radio 3

One of the many fascinating concerts of this Prom season has been between the various choral sounds that have been matched to period-instrument bands: the Monteverdi Choir to the 1610 Vespers, the Schütz Choir in Haydn's "Nelson" Mass, the BBC Singers in Handel and Les Arts Florissants in Charpentier. Apart from the last, there had always been a warm, typically English sheet to the sound that jared slightly against the blindingly clear instrumental textures. In Sunday night's Prom Andrew Parrott produced a choir for Handel's *Dixit Dominus* which to my ears set new standards of technical brilliance and textural blend: a crystalline, pungent,

really quite edgy ensemble whose sense of attack and blend matched that of the instruments ideally well.

None of the fearsome technical difficulties of Handel's exuberant early psalm setting seemed to daunt them, and Parrott's own rhythmic buoyancy — which is miles away from both the solidity and the permissiveness of other conductors in this repertoire — gave an impulse and drama to the central sequence of great choruses that was exhilarating.

The instruments themselves sounded completely at home in the concerted Corelli-style figures, there had always been a "De tarantelle" made even more powerful the dissonances of Emma Kirkby and Judith Rees, two strongly contrasted sopranos. Kirkby's triplets flowed with more glorious ease in her aria than James Bowman's figureheads in his; Neil Jenkins and David Thomas were both excellent.

Parrott's performances tend either to work or not. Purcell's *Hail, Bright Cecilia* in the first half decidedly did not. Brisk, without dullness, grave, it certainly was, but infinite felicity was not quite provided. The problems of range in the alto parts were exacerbated by giving them to a variety of tenors who struggled manfully with the dauntingly high notes; James Bowman was engagingly casual in those sections that were left to him. The highlights were Emma Kirkby's tuning of the world and David Thomas's hilariously energetic pean to the organ, "Wonderous machine", with an exceptionally dispiriting lute in the background.

Nicholas Kenyon

else was perfect) fell into place under Abbado's rounded, coaxing beat.

He loves a broad, expansive sound, whether in Mozart or Bruckner, and in both composers the edges tended to be softened: even the biggest ellipses in the Bruckner were eased into, and even the sharpest counterpoint in the Mozart was sweet and lacking in attack. At other times Abbado's instinctive understanding and the Vienna's playing style cohered to produce a magical vision: the quieter moments of the "Prague" first movement — second violins

easing in their initial melody and strings and wind leading back to the recapitulation through aching chromaticisms — were sublime.

In Bruckner the finale, done with electric unanimity across the orchestra between the quiet, tense bounding figures, captured the same *fièvre*. The falling sequential "sevens" of the Scherzo sounded suddenly Elgarian, and that movement too was propelled with an exciting sense of held-back tension. In the great Adagio the Viennese warmth became for a moment overpoweringly dense, even a bit lugubrious: one longed for a

touch more air, more rise and fall.

But I wondered how much relation their clean-edged, perfectly poised sound of today bore to the string playing Bruckner expected. The Vienna strings allowed themselves only one minuscule portamento all evening, in the rising sixths of the Trio. It would be easy to say that their Mozart is unstylish, and transforms the music's character out of all recognition. But might not the same be true of their Bruckner?

Nicholas Kenyon

CHRISTIE'S

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● Religion on the VDU: Page 20

COMPUTER HORIZONS

● Edited by MATTHEW MAY

● The meaning of compatibility: Page 21

The university student of 1992 will have powerful personal computers that will be plugged into a network in the study, bedroom or in the library, and will use computers for sending and receiving electronic letters, for writing essays and answering tests and for choosing a library book.

This is what a working party of the Computer Board for Universities and Research Councils predicts will be happening in an "advanced" university in eight years' time. Reading between the lines it would probably be more accurate to say that the board hopes this will be the case.

Its report, *Computer Facilities for Teaching in Universities*, provides damning evidence of how little the universities have done to equip their students for a world in which computer skills will be needed. Nor have they taken advantage of the ways in which the computer can be used to enhance the learning and teaching of all subjects.

At a time when all secondary schools in the country now possess at least one microcomputer, and many have groups of micros, and when primary schools are venturing into new technology, the universities have allowed the world to overtake them.

The report criticizes the lack of hardware and software. "There is insufficient investment in the facilities

required to support undergraduate computer use," says the working party. "The hardware available is often inappropriate to students' needs, is fragmented across user departments and central services, and is uncoordinated."

"There is a severe shortage of workstations, of central and local processing power and file store to meet the requirements of the potentially enormous community of student users."

"There is a critical lack of awareness in the academic community of the potential of the new technology and the likely changes it will bring to higher education." And so the catalogue of shortcomings goes on.

Behind the mild-mannered observations lie the rude facts. The working party wrote to all universities to ask what they were doing about introducing computers into their teaching. "Of those that replied, only a few were able to provide adequate information," says the report ominously. "It soon became clear that there is a lack of planning for teaching facilities in a majority of institutions. Computing centres are not always aware of the

work being done in departments. Departments are not obtaining information on the software that is available for teaching."

"Computing centres do not know, in general, what teaching software is available. Universities do not appear to accord a sufficiently high priority to teaching needs in this area."

THE WEEK

By Lucy Hodges
Education Correspondent

The board's survey revealed that departments used about 35 per cent of the total terminal time provided by the central computing facilities in any given university. Few engineering and science departments gave students more than an hour a week of computer time during the term.

Much of the responsibility for this state of affairs must lie with the institutions themselves. Universities

have not been bold and forward-looking, and the 1981 spending cuts have perhaps induced more insularity. That said, computing costs a lot of money and the universities are not awash with cash.

About £4m is spent in the polytechnics each year on computing (about 80 per cent for teaching) for 150,000 students. If the universities were to be as well provided the board would have to spend more than £5m a year. At present it spends less than £1m a year on computers for teaching use.

On this point the working party recommended somewhat optimistically that urgent action be taken by government departments, principally the Department of Education and Science, to step up funding "so that future graduates can acquire relevant skills and knowledge."

It knows in reality that the Government will do no such thing so it has decided to fund five pump-priming projects to try to get things moving. Among these is a grant of £120,000 to Essex University to develop student work-stations in the arts faculty.

IT teaching: the rude facts

As might be expected, few arts students have much idea of the new technology and how it might make their lives easier.

It is to be hoped that some of the report's other recommendations will be less pie in the sky, particularly the two which proposed that each university should re-assess its computing facilities and systematically promote computer awareness among staff and students.

Much is made by the working party of the importance of students having work-stations in the way that they do at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Carnegie Mellon University in the US. There is now some doubt about the wisdom of this. It would be highly expensive. A workstation which enabled a student to undertake filing, programming, graphics, printing and plotting and other functions would cost £3,000. The report estimates that there should be one station for every 10 students by 1985, which would cost a university with 5,000 students £1.5m. The same facilities could perhaps be provided more cheaply and efficiently through a network of computers, and discussions about this are taking place.

Even if the report were wrong in some of the detail of its recommendations, it has exposed a major issue. Debate has begun.

How the big two will work together

By Kevin Pearson

IBM and British Telecom released details last week of how their proposed joint computer networking venture, which is now seeking government approval, will work.

Ron Back, BT director, says the joint venture hopes to start offering its first services early in 1985, subject to the granting of a licence to operate from the Department of Trade. The service will initially offer a basic networking system, called systems network architecture (SNA).

Details of the proposal followed hard on some heavy criticism of the link-up, which involved the two most influential information technology companies in the UK. Criticism centred on the anti-competitive aspects of the largest computer manufacturer's joining forces with the dominant telecom communications supplier and on the adoption of SNA when, according to the joint venture's opponents, an internationally agreed alternative exists.

Peter Morgan, an IBM director, went to great lengths to try to explain how the joint venture would operate separately from both IBM and BT.

"It will have its own commercial interests and will not serve the particular interests of its parents," claimed Mr Morgan. It will have independence in "purchasing, staffing, support services, marketing, products and financing," as soon as it is practically possible.

It is not certain just how long independence will take. A report in a US trade magazine, *Information Week*, says that IBM's Information Network in the US has not yet shown a profit after more than three years' operation. Commercial viability will be a prerequisite for independence.

Both Mr Morgan and Mr Back stressed the role of the DTI in licensing the venture and that it will be subject to monitoring by the Office of Telecommunications (OfTel). But with BT soon to be privatized, OfTel will have its work cut out. It has already been reported that some companies have run into trouble with BT when they have replaced BT switchboards with switches from independent

suppliers. The worry is that a similar thing could happen with the joint venture.

IBM's Mr Morgan added that many of the companies complaining about the proposals did not fully understand what was being put forward. He claims that the public discussions have quelled some of the fears. Nevertheless, some rival suppliers feel that IBM and BT will be treated more favourably despite IBM's assurance of independence.

The service, said Mr Back, needs the resources of both IBM and BT, if it is to succeed. He added: "The main purpose is to provide the basis for others to build on VANS (value added network services). We need both parties to get in place the services that we need to make value added."

On that basis ICL would theoretically be as welcome as IBM in providing equipment and services. ICL is worried that this may not be so.

VANS have become one of the hottest talking points in the information technology business after the link-up between ICL and the telecommunications giant, American Telephone & Telegraph, and the proposed IBM-BT venture.

The value added services are generic services such as electronic mail, and the much more advanced computer services and applications that are available only to users of the largest mainframe computers at the moment.

For the kind of VANS IBM and BT are discussing you will need a computer terminal, more like a personal computer, to gain access to powerful mainframe type applications and databases far beyond the capabilities of even the most powerful micro.

A personal computer attached to VANS would have access to all the applications running on any computer in the network as though the personal computer was attached to an in-house mainframe.

VANS will, according to their proponents, spell the end of the hegemony of data-processing departments. It is just a question of whether the IBM-BT approach is the right one. Not everyone is convinced of that.

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Equipping schools: the great British factor

By Geoff Wheelwright

With the advent of a new school year, teachers must again come to terms with the limited choice of microcomputers available in the classroom. The computers are largely British because they are the ones the Government will subsidize. The BBC micro from Acorn, the Spectrum from Sinclair and the RML micros - all are based on technology that is two or three years old. This collection of patriotic and perhaps aging hardware begs the question: are we getting the best by buying British?

Commodore has not had much of a look-in at the school market. It was left off the list of micros for which the Government offered subsidies in a micro-buying incentive scheme last year, although it did get a Royal Warrant.

Sinclair, whose Spectrum computer qualified only for primary school subsidies, has also said many times that it does not think schools are making the most of micro technology. Citing the 30 per cent penetration of the micro-buying schools market claimed by its rivals Acorn, Sir Clive Sinclair said last year that too much was spent on too little. He believes that secondary schools were being encouraged to buy BBC Micro systems which cost two or three times what his Spectrums did, thus further



Unusual sight: a Commodore in the classroom

limiting the number of students who had access to a computer. Sir Clive is now hoping to make his mark in higher education with his new QL computer - which, with the addition of a fixed disc system, should run the Unix operating system.

But it all depends on what you see the computer being used for in the classroom. Acorn, whose BBC micro has been such a success in schools, has said it believes there is a big emphasis on learning Basic programming and logical thinking in computer studies - and that the structured BBC Basic on its computer is best-suited for this task. But there is no doubt that without having been born with a golden TV series and a government contract in its mouth, the BBC micro would not have had such

an easy ride to educational success.

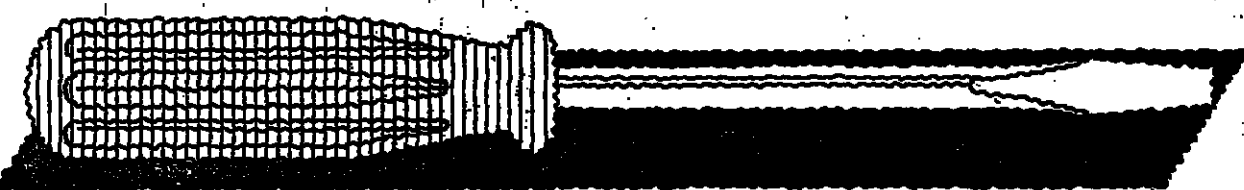
But BBC Basic, one of the contributing factors to that success, may no longer be such an important factor for schools. Not only are other popular home computers - such as Amstrad's new 464 and Sinclair's new QL - being released with excellent structured Basics, the whole emphasis of computer education is shifting.

It is being suggested by many educators that since computers are becoming easier to use and languages getting better all the time, learning Basic is about as relevant as learning Latin. This "anti-school of thought" suggests that teaching computer programming should be only a small part of the role played by computers in schools.

If that happens, and micros are to be used for a lot more than just computer programming in schools, the focus of educators must shift from the quality of languages to the availability of a wide range of good general-subject educational software. That software is not going to come from the Government - recent cutbacks have cut development funds for such programs.

The programs are going to have to come from the private sector, and his interest will be in selling programs for the most popular machines in the market, not necessarily the most British.

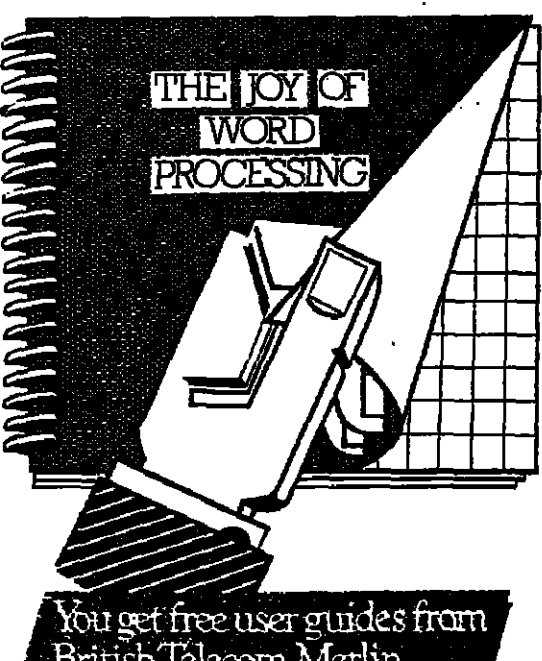
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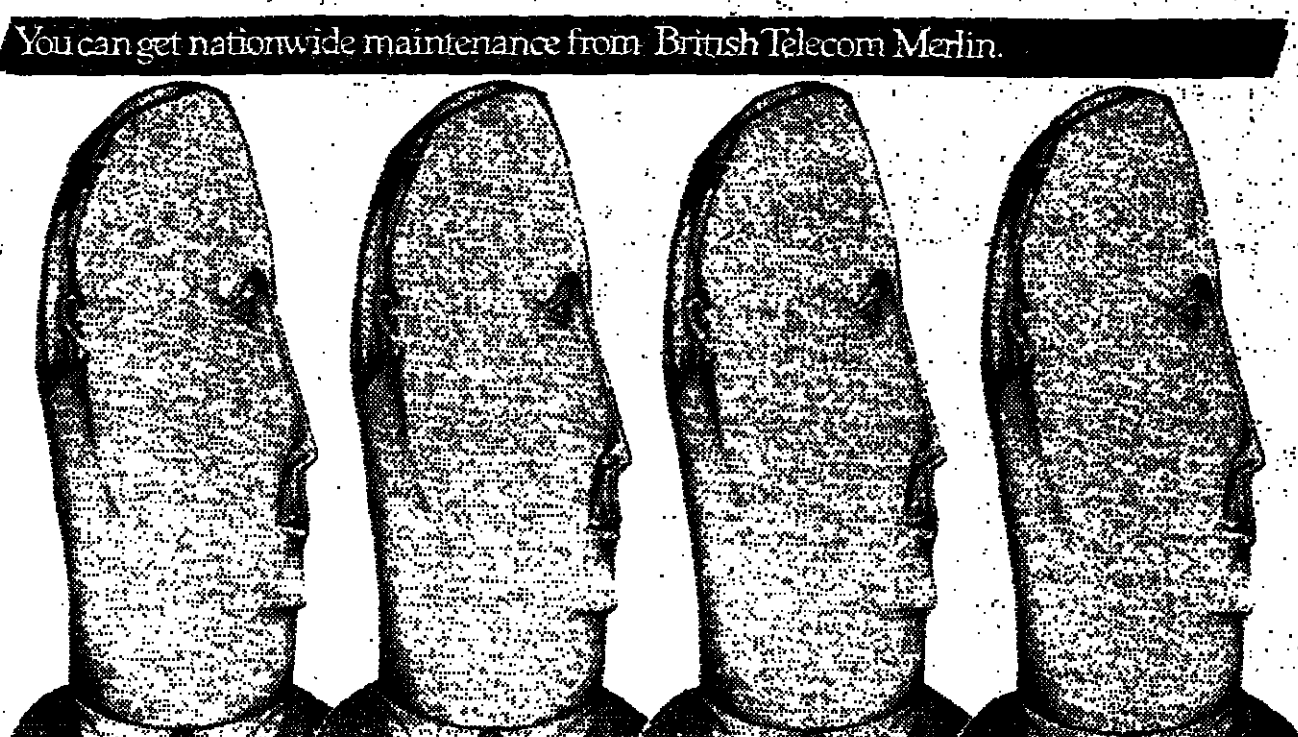
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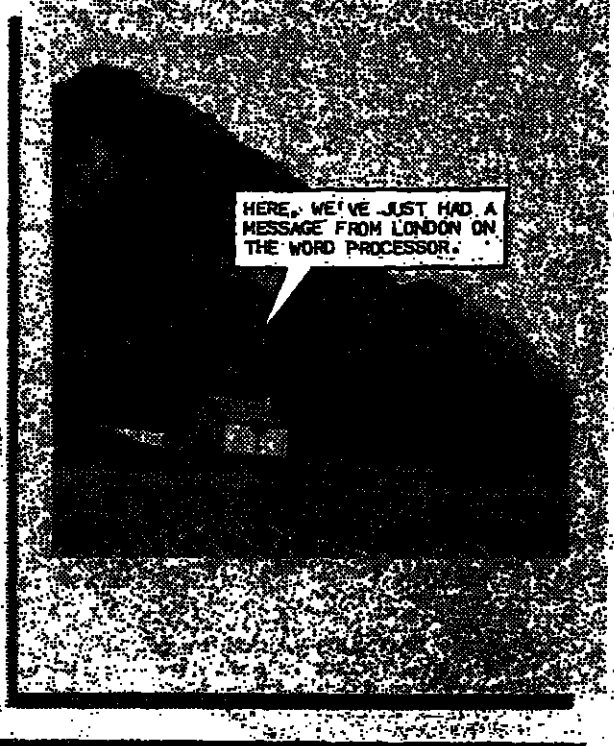
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In the Church of High Tech

San Jose, California
As John Marler sees it, the realm of computer buffs is but a mass of intellectually isolated and lost souls who, if they can just be reached, may still be saved. Through his Christian Fundamentalist Ministry, Marler, a 39-year-old computer salesman, consultant and programmer, is seeking to spread the Gospel into memory banks and video display terminals throughout the land.

The vehicle for Marler's mission is Computers for Christ, an electronic bulletin board, through which home computer operators may debate theological, philosophical and social issues—study the Bible or read critiques of other religions. Founded two years ago as a spin-off from Trinity Solutions Inc., a profit-making, full-service commercial venture, Computers

for Christ receives an average of 180 calls a day. Home computer buffs, who can program their equipment to be compatible with Marler's model can make contact by a telecommunications book-up. They dial the bulletin board's phone number, and Marler's computer answers theirs. The whole ministry of Computers for Christ is designed to Minister the Christian Gospel to the cult of the intellectual. Marler said. He said they were people of above-average intelligence and income who, if he believed in God at all, had rejected liberal biblical notions in favour of a supreme being envisioned as some form of pure energy or thought. Many of these people, Marler said, own home computers. Marler believes Christianity can be sold to liberal-minded

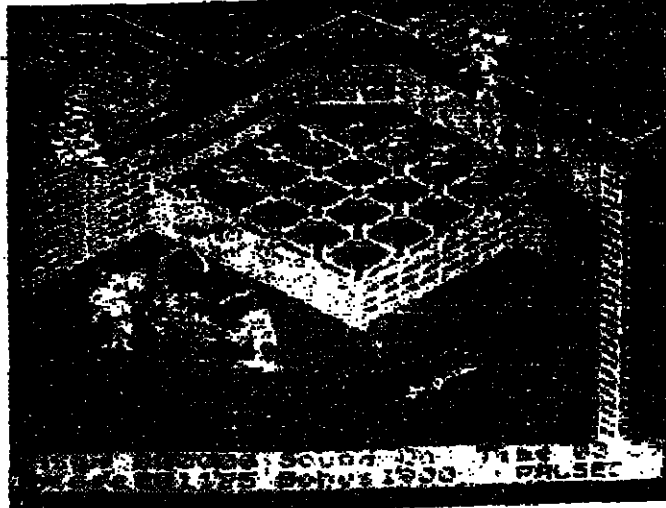
By Alan Lewis

Quite often parents buy computer games software with a reluctance. Many adults fear that computer games are at best frivolous, at worst mindless, numbing and violent. Only now are child-development experts beginning to realize the significance of the leisure-time activity that has taken a hold on the lives of many families. But new research claims that video games are not addictive and are introducing children to the world of micros at a time when computers are becoming increasingly important both in many jobs and in our daily lives. Patricia Greenfield is Professor of Psychology at the University of California and spent four years researching the effects of computer games on children. She finds that children who spend their leisure time playing

Games may be winners

A computer game playing can bring out important skills in children

such games are developing important new skills. Professor Greenfield puts forward her theories in a new book *Mind and Media* (Fontana Paperbacks, £2.50), published last week. She says that video games are the first medium to combine visual dynamism with active participatory roles for children. Children are attracted to activities that let them become personally involved.



People who criticize video games, she claims, do not understand what the games involve. Complicated learning and cognitive processes must be gone through to become a skilled player. Adults do not learn as quickly as children. Learning to play brings out important skills such as flexibility and an orientation towards independent achievement. The games also help to develop visual-spatial skills.

Children experienced at video games are better at Rubik's Cube. It is not the violence itself, says Professor Greenfield, that is bad for a child, although there is evidence that violent video games can breed violent behaviour. It may be that the most harmful aspect of the violent games is that they are solitary in nature. They stimulate aggression whereas two-person games release aggression. Far from being lazy or seeking mindless games, children look for games that challenge them. Children who avoid instruction during reading time are willing to be instructed during computer time. There is also evidence that children prefer computers to television because "a computer does what you want it to... it's fun because you get to control it... with TV you don't have to talk or picture anything in your head".

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COMPUTER BRIEFING

DEC to pay penalty

The Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) has agreed to pay a penalty of \$1.1m (£850,000) for allegedly breaching American laws restricting the export of high-technology goods to the Soviet Union. But DEC is not actually admitting anything as it settled with the US Commerce Department "to avoid continuing inconvenience to its customers and to avoid lengthy and costly litigation".

Problems arose with DEC's subsidiary in West Germany which sold two VAX computers to Richard Mueller, a West German who had previously been denied US export privileges for reshipping high-technology equipment to the Soviet Union. If such privileges are denied, US companies are prohibited under American export control laws from dealing with them.

Handy money

Identix Inc of Palo Alto, California, has announced a terminal which can verify users through their fingerprints. Available in America later this year and costing £3,000, the system is designed for use at automatic bank teller machines and high security installations, eliminating the need for passwords, magnetic-strip plastic cards and other forms of



"So what's it to be a new TP/XR bit-slice coupling enhancement or two weeks in Ibiza?"

identification. Users have their fingerprints registered when opening their account and need only touch a small reader plate to gain full access to the system.

Super logic chip

Australian scientists have developed the prototype of a new super-logic chip which is as small as a fingernail. It is claimed, it was developed by a design group at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization and will allow the equivalent of 100,000 transistors to be placed on a single silicon chip.

The chip is different to the more than one million memory chips recently developed by the Americans and Japanese; it is a logic chip capable of carrying out a number of complex functions simultaneously and communicating them to allow rapid transition of data between components. It is claimed to be powerful enough to recognise human voice commands and can direct other devices to carry out the specified instructions. Craig Mudge, design group leader, said: "The new chip can be custom-made for specialised applications such as voice recognition, devices for handicapped people, computer graphics and with wide applicability in medicine and the mining industry."

IBM and the At

IBM is today expected to launch its latest personal computer, the PC/AT in the UK. It was launched in the US last month, and offers much greater performance than existing models. It is based on much more micro processor than the existing PC and can have up to five times as much user memory. It uses a new version of the PC operating system, PC-DOS 3.0 and can use a proprietary version of the Unix operating system. Prices are expected to start from about £4,000.

Doctor's package

Acorn has announced a £2,000 computer system designed specifically for Britain's 8,000 general practices. The Acorn Doctors Package, comprising a BBC micro, printer, VDU and twin disc drives, contains specially written software for tasks such as drug usage statistics, periodic recall registers and financial administration. There is also a built-in word processor. Acorn is claiming particular importance for the system's ease of use - nearly half the software is dedicated to introducing and explaining its facilities.

The Doctors Package is likely to be only the first move in Acorn's attempt to broaden the appeal of its machine beyond its traditional market in the home and school.

New ventures

Young or new computer software companies are the target of a syndicate of institutions which have set up a £5m fund to invest in them. The fund, which will be managed by Venture Link, a city venture capital investment firm, is particularly interested in start-ups and very new companies based on good proven management teams.

Mac accounting

Peachtree Software will deliver several new accounting packages for the Apple Macintosh computer in the next few months. The

company has already produced and started selling Macintosh, an electronic cashbook system costing £175 and will soon deliver a combined sales and purchase ledger system for £275. The two products can also be combined under the banner of Macaccounting - which brings down the price to £275 for both packages.

Both programs in the Macaccounting system use all the traditional Macintosh "pull-down" menus, windows and allow for data entry through the mouse input device.

Saving energy

A computer program to monitor energy saving has been launched by Stark Associates of Redhill, Surrey. The package will compare energy bills and identify the most economic tariff for say electricity and monitors fuel and utility bills to indicate where savings can be made or have been achieved. It is available for the IBM PC, Apple, Sirius and Aptoc.

Mini-portions

With its sights set firmly on the specialist scientific and technical market at present dominated by DEC, Masscomp, the US manufacturer of the MC-500 mini, has just launched its products in the European market. Frank Turner, new head of UK operations for Masscomp, is hoping to capture a portion of the £300 million European technical market. Masscomp, who are currently installing equipment in the NASA space shuttle command centre, will have a further two new machines available within a year.

Software pets

Pampered pets of showbiz personalities such as Nancy Sinatra and Zsa Zsa Gabor, can now add computer power to their list of indulgences. The huge West Los Angeles Veterinary Medical Group, which numbers the stars' pets among its 45,000 patients, has installed a multi-user micro, with 16 terminals and eight printers.



COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR

The Computing Services Association is one of the fastest growing trade associations in the UK and represents the interests of over 200 companies in this key area of information technology. The Association has achieved recognition by the Government, the media and other bodies of influence as the local point for the computing services industry and a reputation for technical excellence as the major force in establishing standards and professional ethics in this vital sector of the economy. The CSA has now created the new position of Commercial Director to further strengthen the resources of the permanent secretariat in line with the rapid expansion of the industry.

The holder of this new appointment at the CSA headquarters in London will be responsible for:

- ★ Directing the day to day operation of a busy secretariat
 - ★ Providing support to 14 major interest groups
 - ★ Co-ordinating arrangements for conferences, seminars and other CSA events and publications
 - ★ Directing the accounting and administrative functions of the CSA
 - ★ Assisting the Director General in his overall representative activities
- The person appointed must have:
- ★ A strong background in management and administration
 - ★ Good interpersonal skills at all levels
 - ★ In-depth knowledge of computing systems, the computer industry and information technology
 - ★ Good communication ability both orally and in writing, together with public presentation skills

Desirably, the person appointed should also

- ★ Hold a professional qualification in accountancy or law
- ★ Have a direct experience in a computing service company
- ★ Be in the age group 35-45

Letters of application, including career details and salary expectation should be addressed to: Dr D A Eyeleons, Director General THE COMPUTING SERVICES ASSOCIATION Hanover House, 73/74 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LE

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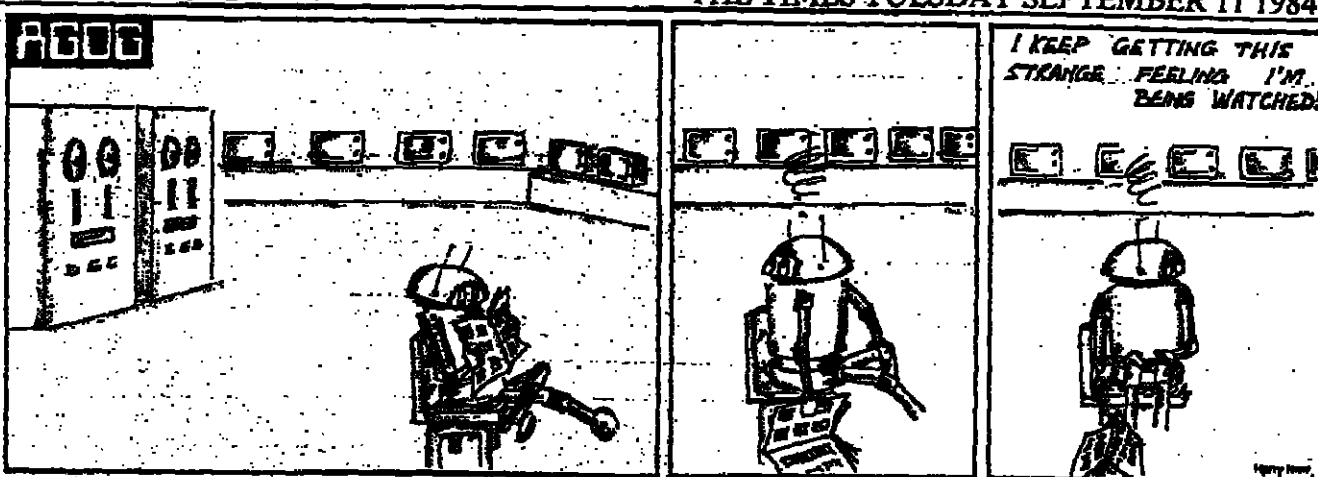
Birth of a new expert

Researchers at the Sloan School of Management in Boston have identified a new class of programmers whom they have called "functional support" personnel. These individuals work in the end user departments and by virtue of having acquired considerable prowess in end user languages they have become informal local centres of system design and end user programming.

According to the survey, in which 200 end users and 50 data processing people in seven major US organizations were interviewed, these functional support personnel provide the majority of code for end users in their organization.

Despite this, and despite the fact that many of the spend as much as 80 per cent of their time programming, the functional support people do not regard themselves as programmers or data processing professionals. Rather, they are market researchers, project managers or financial analysts who provide tools and processes to get at and to analyse data.

These informal centres of expertise are emerging not only



Will I find true compatibility?

WORKSHOP

Question: I find it difficult to establish exactly what is meant by claims in advertisements regarding "IBM compatibility" when it is applied to non-IBM machines. Are there any clear points of guidance?

Answer: The most common claim affects the small personal computers available. These are necessarily being linked to the large volume of software produced for the IBM personal computer. Full compatibility means that you could use diskettes and programs written and produced specifically for the IBM machine on some alternative machine.

Partial compatibility often concerns the use of the same family of microprocessors as is used by IBM. This does not always ensure that the alternative machine will behave as a clone of the IBM product. What it mainly implies is that there will be plenty of available software for the product.

What needs thinking about when reading these advertisements is whether you are proposing to mix IBM products with the proposed alternatives within your own organization. If this is the aim then very detailed matters of data and program interchange need to be checked.

The claim of IBM compatibility is also applied to the large processors designed by IBM. Users of large processors are generally skilled enough to relate these claims to the costs and benefits of using alternatives. It should be noted that IBM is not always fully compatible with itself. That is to say that there is often a cost associated with changing to new products - both hardware and software.

The firm I work for is involved largely in defence and communications. There is a need to set up a database dealing with information from many sources. Can you advise?

It appears that the database is needed for retrieving information as well as for data processing. Though many database designs will support both functions there is always some element of compromise in how well each aspect is carried out. A database tuned for regular file processing is frequently rather poor at dealing with queries. Equally, those databases that are good at handling wide ranging queries are prone to be slow at regular updating tasks.

It is probable that one of the database systems that carry claims to be relational in nature would be best suited to your needs. The piece of jargon behind the relational name-tag is essentially concerned with

This week's Workshop looks at what claims for IBM compatibility really mean, setting up databases from many different sources, what size training budgets need to be, the cost of laser printers and computers for a small business. In this column HEDLEY VOYSEY will answer questions on any aspect of computers in business or personal use. Write to: Workshop, Computer Horizons, The Times, Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

Isolating the order of entries made from the problems of processing entries. In effect, this means that you do not have to think too deeply about the intended processing rules at the time the database is set up. This is a great help when you want to change your mind about some of the linkages in the database.

However, if your database is really a form of library cross referencing then you may meet many snags. One of the more outrageous claims for the idea of automating the office is based on the notion that there are easy solutions to the tasks of extracting linked material out of many different files. There are partial solutions to this task but no quick, easy or cheap ones.

I am trying to guess at a realistic training budget for some 300 staff who will be involved in a new computer system shortly. Are there general guidelines for such activities?

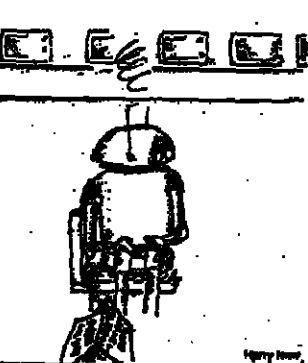
The key estimate that must be made is for the core of leaders involved. This is usually about 10 to 15 per cent of those affected. The principle here is that this core acts to train the balance of staff.

The core members will probably require at least two to three days of initial training as well as further time to examine and discuss the materials to be used by them to train the balance of staff. If the new system is crucial the development of "on-the-job" material may be quite substantial. However, if the system is directed towards internal users and being phased in by easy stages then the material may evolve naturally as experience accumulates and this lowers costs dramatically.

I am impressed with the performance of laser printers. However, the budget I administer cannot stretch to the cost of the ones I have seen demonstrated. Will these excellent features be coming down in price soon?

It is unlikely that all the best features of large and expensive printers will suddenly be available at greatly reduced prices. However, a steady list of improvements in printing techniques is coming to the market.

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JOB SCENE

By Graham Bunting

in organizations which have failed to provide any kind of support to end users but also in organizations which have set up Information Centres or Decision Support Groups.

The study found instances where users had rebelled against one or more of the corporation's standard software languages which were supported by the centralised end user computing group. They had chosen instead similar, but different, software considered to be more appropriate by their functional support people.

The study quotes one manager who took this point of view: "End user computing is spread all over the company like grains of sand. I don't know how it can possibly plan for it, support it or manage it. It can't get my hands around it." The evidence in the study however flatly contradicts this gut reaction. It was found that more than 80 per cent of the users interviewed were in major definable staff groups in the organization.

What all this points to is a third environment for data processing. In addition to the central programming environment controlled by DP and the traditional time sharing environment in which the user is in control, a third, shared, environment would provide for the support and linking in to the central databases of end user computing. The users would take responsibility for system development and maintenance and for operating the system whilst DP would handle the housekeeping functions of data management, privacy, and security.

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7A TRIUMPH ADLER

For the answers to your business computing questions contact Kate Myles at Triumph Adler on 01-250 1717.

People/David Mayes of Paradigm

Home is now the place

By Roger Woolfmoth

The twentieth century California gold rush may be over. According to David Mayes, Silicon Valley is no longer the place to go if you are seeking a fortune in microcomputers or other high-technology ventures. Instead, it is all happening here in Britain.

Mayes is well-qualified to pass judgment. An American who spent several years with Intel, the company which created the microprocessor, he is now exploiting the opportunities in this country. He has helped to set up and run Paradigm, a division of a retailer called OI Computers which will specialise in software marketing and distribution.

"I made a conscious decision that the UK was the correct place to launch an activity of this kind," he explains. "It used to be a fairy-tale existence in Silicon Valley, but that changed."

Using skills

To fulfil his ambition to start his own company, 37-year-old Mayes teamed up with Ken Blackman, an Englishman who had also worked to launch Paradigm.

They are far from turning their backs on the US. Their first deal is with a new American company, Innovative Software, which has developed a package called Smart Software. This combines word processing, spreadsheet, graphics and data management in a single integrated system.

"Ken and I developed the idea of software-oriented business," says Mayes. "We wanted to use our skills to help some of these very promising new information technology companies to succeed in the market place. We had seen big American companies make horrendous marketing blunders."

David Mayes' disillusion with Silicon Valley springs from the very success which the area has had. He believes the environment has become grossly overheated, and there is too much venture capital chasing too few opportunities.

In the UK, on the other hand,



Mayes: England is best

things are at an earlier stage. "You are back to the development of a market place which is less mature, and therefore less competitive and less overheated."

Ken Blackman, who is 28, agrees. "England is again becoming a place to start up businesses and make a success," he says.

Adapting to the new environment was not easy, though Mayes had completed his graduate education here, and spent some time in Europe when still with Intel. In California, things work in a typically laid-back style. Venture capitalists haunt every bar after working hours, and try to spot disgruntled employees who might have ideas worth backing.

In the maze

"It's not the same here," Mayes says, with studied understatement. "There's a great emphasis on ensuring the quality of the investment."

Paradigm, which is based in London, recently received a £250,000 injection from Equity Capital for Industry, but Mayes and Blackman had first of all to negotiate the City maze. And after taking financial advice, they found that in one respect London is less demanding than the US.

"We started with an 80-page business plan, which was suited to the Californian scene," recalls Mayes. "By the time we had adapted it for the City we had it down to 30 pages."

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| No. | Company | Year | Price | Change | Ytd % | P/E |
|-----|---------|------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | Asahi | 1984 | 1.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 2 | Asahi | 1983 | 1.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 3 | Asahi | 1982 | 1.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 4 | Asahi | 1981 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 5 | Asahi | 1980 | 0.90 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 6 | Asahi | 1979 | 0.85 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 7 | Asahi | 1978 | 0.80 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 8 | Asahi | 1977 | 0.75 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 9 | Asahi | 1976 | 0.70 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 10 | Asahi | 1975 | 0.65 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 11 | Asahi | 1974 | 0.60 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 12 | Asahi | 1973 | 0.55 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 13 | Asahi | 1972 | 0.50 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 14 | Asahi | 1971 | 0.45 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 15 | Asahi | 1970 | 0.40 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 16 | Asahi | 1969 | 0.35 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 17 | Asahi | 1968 | 0.30 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 18 | Asahi | 1967 | 0.25 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 19 | Asahi | 1966 | 0.20 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 20 | Asahi | 1965 | 0.15 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 21 | Asahi | 1964 | 0.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 22 | Asahi | 1963 | 0.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 23 | Asahi | 1962 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 24 | Asahi | 1961 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 25 | Asahi | 1960 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 26 | Asahi | 1959 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 27 | Asahi | 1958 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 28 | Asahi | 1957 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 29 | Asahi | 1956 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 30 | Asahi | 1955 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 31 | Asahi | 1954 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 32 | Asahi | 1953 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 33 | Asahi | 1952 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 34 | Asahi | 1951 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 35 | Asahi | 1950 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 36 | Asahi | 1949 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 37 | Asahi | 1948 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 38 | Asahi | 1947 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 39 | Asahi | 1946 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 40 | Asahi | 1945 | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |

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BRITISH FUNDS

| 1984 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Ytd % | P/E |
|------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | 1.10 | 1.05 | Asahi | 1.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 2 | 1.05 | 1.00 | Asahi | 1.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 3 | 1.00 | 0.95 | Asahi | 1.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 4 | 0.95 | 0.90 | Asahi | 0.95 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 5 | 0.90 | 0.85 | Asahi | 0.90 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 6 | 0.85 | 0.80 | Asahi | 0.85 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 7 | 0.80 | 0.75 | Asahi | 0.80 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 8 | 0.75 | 0.70 | Asahi | 0.75 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 9 | 0.70 | 0.65 | Asahi | 0.70 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 10 | 0.65 | 0.60 | Asahi | 0.65 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 11 | 0.60 | 0.55 | Asahi | 0.60 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 12 | 0.55 | 0.50 | Asahi | 0.55 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 13 | 0.50 | 0.45 | Asahi | 0.50 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 14 | 0.45 | 0.40 | Asahi | 0.45 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 15 | 0.40 | 0.35 | Asahi | 0.40 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 16 | 0.35 | 0.30 | Asahi | 0.35 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 17 | 0.30 | 0.25 | Asahi | 0.30 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 18 | 0.25 | 0.20 | Asahi | 0.25 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 19 | 0.20 | 0.15 | Asahi | 0.20 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 20 | 0.15 | 0.10 | Asahi | 0.15 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 21 | 0.10 | 0.05 | Asahi | 0.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 22 | 0.05 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 26 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 27 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 31 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 36 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 37 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |

BREWERIES

| 1984 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Ytd % | P/E |
|------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | 1.10 | 1.05 | Asahi | 1.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 2 | 1.05 | 1.00 | Asahi | 1.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 3 | 1.00 | 0.95 | Asahi | 1.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 4 | 0.95 | 0.90 | Asahi | 0.95 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 5 | 0.90 | 0.85 | Asahi | 0.90 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 6 | 0.85 | 0.80 | Asahi | 0.85 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 7 | 0.80 | 0.75 | Asahi | 0.80 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 8 | 0.75 | 0.70 | Asahi | 0.75 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 9 | 0.70 | 0.65 | Asahi | 0.70 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 10 | 0.65 | 0.60 | Asahi | 0.65 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 11 | 0.60 | 0.55 | Asahi | 0.60 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 12 | 0.55 | 0.50 | Asahi | 0.55 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 13 | 0.50 | 0.45 | Asahi | 0.50 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 14 | 0.45 | 0.40 | Asahi | 0.45 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 15 | 0.40 | 0.35 | Asahi | 0.40 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 16 | 0.35 | 0.30 | Asahi | 0.35 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 17 | 0.30 | 0.25 | Asahi | 0.30 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 18 | 0.25 | 0.20 | Asahi | 0.25 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 19 | 0.20 | 0.15 | Asahi | 0.20 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 20 | 0.15 | 0.10 | Asahi | 0.15 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 21 | 0.10 | 0.05 | Asahi | 0.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 22 | 0.05 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 26 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 27 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 31 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 36 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 37 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |

BANKS DISCOUNT HP

| 1984 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change | Ytd % | P/E |
|------|------|------|---------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1 | 1.10 | 1.05 | Asahi | 1.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 2 | 1.05 | 1.00 | Asahi | 1.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 3 | 1.00 | 0.95 | Asahi | 1.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 4 | 0.95 | 0.90 | Asahi | 0.95 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 5 | 0.90 | 0.85 | Asahi | 0.90 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 6 | 0.85 | 0.80 | Asahi | 0.85 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 7 | 0.80 | 0.75 | Asahi | 0.80 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 8 | 0.75 | 0.70 | Asahi | 0.75 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 9 | 0.70 | 0.65 | Asahi | 0.70 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 10 | 0.65 | 0.60 | Asahi | 0.65 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 11 | 0.60 | 0.55 | Asahi | 0.60 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 12 | 0.55 | 0.50 | Asahi | 0.55 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 13 | 0.50 | 0.45 | Asahi | 0.50 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 14 | 0.45 | 0.40 | Asahi | 0.45 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 15 | 0.40 | 0.35 | Asahi | 0.40 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 16 | 0.35 | 0.30 | Asahi | 0.35 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 17 | 0.30 | 0.25 | Asahi | 0.30 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 18 | 0.25 | 0.20 | Asahi | 0.25 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 19 | 0.20 | 0.15 | Asahi | 0.20 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 20 | 0.15 | 0.10 | Asahi | 0.15 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 21 | 0.10 | 0.05 | Asahi | 0.10 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 22 | 0.05 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.05 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 23 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 24 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 25 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 26 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 27 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 28 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 29 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 30 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 31 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 32 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 33 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 35 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 36 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 37 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 38 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 39 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |
| 40 | 0.00 | 0.00 | Asahi | 0.00 | 0.05 | 4.8 | 12.5 |

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Shares ease on pit talks

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Sept 3. Dealings End, Sept 14. Contango Day, Sept 17. Settlement Day, Sept 24.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

| 1984 | High | Low | Company | Price | Change |
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|
|------|------|-----|---------|-------|--------|

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Mexicans join the queue for dollars

For a few brief moments in the early hours yesterday, dealers in the Far East were able to buy three Deutschmarks for a dollar. Thereafter, the US currency eased back although it managed to touch DM2.9960 while European markets were open. Last week the dollar gained nearly 10 pence – a remarkable rise. As US Treasury officials have disclosed, the currency provisions contained in the Mexico debt deal unveiled late on Friday were largely responsible. Yesterday they confirmed privately reports that the New York Federal Reserve Bank was monitoring closely the effects of the currency provisions on markets where demand for the dollar was expected to be great.

Under terms of the Mexico agreement, which was expected to serve as a model for other debtor nations, non US banks should be allowed to convert portions of their existing dollar loans into loans denominated in their home currencies. In Mexico's case, this would affect loans valued by such as \$10 billion. The currency provisions would exert upward pressure on the dollar because the Mexican Government would have to purchase the US currency to effect the swap. Ultimately, this could result in the conversion of many more billions of dollars worth of loans if other debtor nations copy them in their own rescheduling agreements.

Under terms of the agreement, a British bank, for example, could call in as much as one half of its dollar loans and replace them with equivalent loans denominated in pounds; a French bank or German bank could convert part of their dollar loans into franc loans or mark loans.

Mr Rimmer de Vries, chief international economist for Morgan Guaranty Trust Company, said he believed the Mexican accord would play a large role in the future of the dollar, though felt its impact had already been seen in the currency markets. Foreign exchange dealers may not agree.

Sterling although falling to a new low of \$1.2705 at one stage yesterday, nevertheless managed to shade higher on the trade-weighted index; having risen against European currencies, including the mark.

As pointed out here last week, the situation now is very different from July when inherent weakness in the pound forced a sharp rise in interest rates. There is no immediate threat to base rates at 10.5 per cent, although were labour problems to take a turn for the worse, the situation might begin to look different.

The Government is sitting on its hands in the knowledge that there is not much it can do anyway. The ill-wind principle also explains ministerial calm before the sterling storm. Weak commodity prices, for example, have helped to limit the inflationary impact of the pound's fall.

Yesterday's producer prices showed that industry's raw material and fuel costs, admittedly a very erratic series, fell in August for the third month in a row, while output prices rose by only 0.2 per cent. The year-on-year rise in output prices of 6.3 per cent is no cause for complacency, however, and the inflation picture will look less rosy on Friday when the impact of recent mortgage rate rises pushes up the Retail Price Index to around 5 per cent.

The lower dollar-sterling rate brings actual rewards to the balance of payments and tax receipts through higher oil revenues. Since the budget, the pound has fallen about 20 cents against the dollar because oil is priced in dollars which will add about £2 billion to revenue from oil taxes. Heaven is clearly on Mrs Thatcher's side when devaluing the currency can bring such bliss!

Resounding silence on Griffiths study

The latest Lornho polemic against House of Fraser, which appeared in stages during the weekend, departs from the norm only in two respects: the rhetoric, for whatever reason, has acquired a kind of angry hysteria, and by invoking comparisons of relative management performances Lornho has invited a closer examination of its own accounts. The reality of Lornho's record since 1977 – earnings on shareholders' funds down 50 per cent and earnings per share down by a third – is hardly something to write home about, let alone to House of Fraser shareholders not committed to Lornho's cause.

Where Lornho is in a class apart is in its financial management. The 1983 balance sheet revealed net borrowing in excess of capital and reserves of £68.1m, compared with £52.3m a year before. Furthermore, when the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last investigated House of Fraser/Lornho in 1980, Lornho's borrowing to assets ratio was 43.9 per cent; by September 1983, on the same basis, it had risen to 51.3 per cent.

It may have come as a surprise to some that Lornho, having agreed not to vote its 29.9 per cent of Fraser shares against the reelection of Professor Roland Smith, the Fraser chairman, is campaigning among other shareholders to have him off the board at the annual meeting on September 28. To some but not surely to many, and not to Norman Tebbit at the Department of Trade.

Biggest may not be best in accountancy

Price Waterhouse and Deloitte Haskins and Sells, two of the world's largest accounting firms, will tomorrow break their silence on rumours of a merger. They will confirm that talks have been taking place. Partners on both sides of the Atlantic have so far stood stoically to the "we do not comment on market rumours" line, an approach which has not only fuelled speculation but also caused concern bordering on consternation among clients and employees alike. The statement is therefore much needed, in that it will be one of soothing assurance that "a normal service" will be maintained for the duration. This might well be the case but many of the questions about the implications of a merger will cry out for answers.

The sheer complexity of merging two huge partnerships with offices worldwide operating under a variety of tax systems is reason enough to abandon the idea. But if tomorrow's statement confirms that an agreement in principle has been reached and that the talks are to continue, then who better to sort out these problems than two firms of accountants?

It would still leave clients and staff alike wondering what is to become of them.

Dee in £23m agreed bid for Merseyside stores group

By Alison Eadie

Dee Corporation, the supermarket group whose £230m bid for Booker McConnell the agricultural and food retail group is being considered by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, yesterday announced a £23m agreed bid for the Merseyside food stores group, Lennons.

The all-share bid values Lennons shares at 50p, against a market closing price of 56p, up 8p on the day. The terms are two new ordinary Dee shares for 19 Lennons ordinary shares. Dee shares closed 2p lower at 56p.

The bid for Lennons, which operates 41 supermarkets and 94 off-licences in the North-west and Midlands, does not mean Dee is no longer interested in Booker. The Commission will report in December, but Dee, whose chairman and chief executive is Mr Alec Monk, was not prepared to spend six months doing nothing. It will not decide until December whether to renew its bid if permitted, dispose of its 20 per cent stake in Booker, or sit tight on a passive investment.

The bid was referred to the Commission at the end of June, but Dee went into the market and bought another 5 per cent of Booker after the reference. It has since given undertakings to the Government not to buy further shares. Booker's share price fell 7p yesterday to 176p, on fears that Dee may now not renew its bid in December, if it is given the go-ahead by the Commission. Dee's 20 per cent stake is valued at £44.3m.

A Monopolies reference for the Lennons bid looks unlikely. Although Dee is already represented in the North-west with its Gateway stores, the combined market share of the two groups in packaged groceries is only 2 per cent. The gross assets of Lennons are about £30m – the new level at which monopolies references start.

Dee estimates its nationwide market share of packaged groceries will rise to 4.3 per cent from 4.2 per cent through the Lennons acquisition. Dee approached Lennons at the weekend, although the two companies have discussed a takeover before. Lennons accepted swiftly because the offer valued the shares at a 49.5 per cent premium to their trading price.

Lennons has been struggling. Pretax profits slumped to £542,000 in 1983, against £1.48m in 1982, but partially recovered to £1.17m in 1984. Dee will convert the 41 supermarkets to Gateway stores, none of the existing store locations overlaps – firstly by introducing Gateway's competitive pricing and then by revamping the stores.

The 94 off-licences present more of a problem. It will be one of Dee's priorities to see whether they can make a useful contribution or whether they should be sold. Dee made profits before tax of £28.3m in the year to April 28, 1984 on a turnover of £1.387m.

It has 340 supermarkets and has grown fast through acquisitions. Tempus, page 25



Alec Monk: no waiting around at Dee

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It has 340 supermarkets and has grown fast through acquisitions. Tempus, page 25

Investment urged for developing countries

By Michael Prest

Private sector companies in developing countries have suffered severely from the debt crisis and its ramifying effects. In urgent need of extra investment if growth in the Third World is to resume, the International Finance Corporation says in its annual review published today.

The IFC is part of the World Bank group and specializes in raising private finance for businesses in developing countries. In its report the corporation says "in the long run, the ability of the debtor countries to service their debts depends on the growth of their productive capacity and of their exports."

It goes on: "This will depend on the implementation of well-designed stabilization and adjustment programmes which take into account the impact such programmes will have on the economic performance and health of the private sector."

Last year the IFC provided \$696m (£544m) in finance for 62 projects in 36 countries. After the equity and debt capital provided to these projects by other investors is included, the gross amount of funds mobilized through the IFC totals \$2.473m.

In 1982 the corporation lent more (\$846m) but to four fewer projects. The IFC says that one consequence of the crisis in many developing countries has been the need to assist existing companies rather than promote new ones.

Supporting its role of finding private finance for the developing countries, the IFC points out that in a year when there was a net outflow of capital from indebted countries it persuaded 75 institutions to syndicate a total of \$415m in new loans.

The IFC's board of directors is seeking from member governments a doubling of its capital to \$1.300m.

These extra funds, and the borrowing powers associated with them, will enable the IFC to pursue a new, more active, five-year programme from 1985 to 1989. The focus will be on encouraging local entrepreneurs, particularly in Africa,

Wood Mackenzie to be sold for £20m

By Jeremy Warner

Hill Samuel Group is to pay a total of £20m for Wood Mackenzie & Co, the big Edinburgh stockbroking firm. The money will be shared by the firm's 41 partners.

The merchant bank announced in June that it would be forging close links with Wood Mackenzie but details of the deal only became known yesterday. A consideration of £5.98m will be paid for an initial stake of 29.9 per cent – the maximum shareholdings at present allowed by the Stock Exchange in its member firms. Nearly £3m of this will be satisfied by the issue of 997,000 Hill Samuel shares and a further £1.23m by the issue of unsecured loan notes.

Hill Samuel will pay £14.02m for the remaining 70.1 per cent of the firm when Stock Exchange rules permit. At least one third of this will be satisfied by the issue of Hill Samuel shares.

The deal excludes Wood Mackenzie's fast-growing computer services division which has become a separate company. The Wood Mackenzie partners will retain this business, though Hill Samuel has been granted an option to acquire a 50 per cent stake.

Wood Mackenzie's senior partner, Mr John Chiese, is joining the Hill Samuel board as a director. The value of the deal is smaller than most City observers had expected. The £20m price tag compares with the £78m that Security Pacific, the American bank, is paying for House Govett, another leading broker, and the value of £60.4m that has been placed on Rowe & Pitman by Mercury Securities.

In the year to April 7, Wood Mackenzie made pretax profits of £2.7m and the net assets of the business amounted to £500,000. County Bank, the merchant banking arm of National Westminster Bank, is expected to confirm later this week the acquisition of John Watson and Co, a Hongkong stockbroking firm. This would mark another step in County Bank's expansion into the international securities market.

The National Australia Bank announced yesterday that it was acquiring a 50 per cent stake in AC Goode and Co, a Melbourne stockbroking firm. American account, page 24

Amstrad may bid for Fidelity

By Jonathan Clare

Mr Alan Sugar, the chairman of Amstrad Consumer Electronics, said yesterday that he was considering bidding for Fidelity, the electronics company, and would make an announcement "one way or the other" on Thursday.

Fidelity, which makes hi-fi, television and other electronic equipment, is already the subject of an unwanted bid from Mr Swraj Paul's Caparo Industries which values the company at £13.5m.

Mr Sugar said there was "a certain amount of poetic licence" in Sunday newspaper reports about his intentions towards Fidelity.

There has been no contact yet between Mr Sugar and Mr Paul who has built up a 32.4 per cent stake in the company. The importance of the Caparo stake would be one of the things which the Amstrad board would be discussing over the next few days, Mr Sugar said.

Mr Paul said last night that until he heard anything to change circumstances he would go ahead with his bid and was still preparing the formal offer document. His offer is 120p a share in cash.

Retail sales maintained

Retail sales volume held up in August when many in the trade had feared a decline because of the full impact of mortgage interest rate rises coming through. The seasonally-adjusted volume index was 111.3, marginally up on July's 111.2. Volume sales in the three months to August were 4 per cent higher than in the same period last year.

Provisional figures from the Department of Trade and Industry reported sales by value, unadjusted seasonally, to be 7 per cent up on August last year.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1081.6 down 7.7 (high: 1098.5; low: 1081.6)
FT Index: 847.4 down 4.3
FT 100s: 79.63 up 0.14
FT All Share: 516.22 down 2.36
Bargains: 15,440
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 102.23 down 0.32
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: (latest) 1189.08 down 8.28
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 10,471.53 down 28.17
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 346.06 up 5.51

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
Sterling \$1.2705 up 10pts
Index 77.7 up 0.1
DM 3.8250 up 0.0200
FF 11.7225 up 0.0775
Yen 313.75 up 0.25
Dollar Index 140.00 up 1.4
DM 2.9930 up 0.0085
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.2701
Dollar DM 2.9855
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.588610
SDR £0.788657

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 10%
Finance houses base rate 11%
Discount market loans week (vied) 10%
3 month interbank 10% - 10%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 11% - 11%
3 month DM 5% - 5%
3 month FF 11% - 11%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 13.00
Fed funds 11%
Treasury long bond 100% - 100%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4 1984. Inclusive: 9.488 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$337.20 pm \$338.45
close \$338.50 - 339.00 (£265.25 - 265.75)
New York (latest): \$340.25
Kruggerand (per gram):
\$348.50 - 350.00 (£273.25 - 274.25)

There's a new girl on our block

Beryl B is her name. And though she's yet to make her formal debut, Beryl B is already earning her keep, producing oil from Block 9/13 – Mobil's biggest operation in the British North Sea.

Newcomer though she might be, Beryl B has great connections. In only eight years, her elder sister platform, Beryl A, has produced more than 200 million barrels of crude oil.

Between them, the two Beryls will ultimately bring to the surface about 135,000 barrels of oil every day. That's nearly 10 percent of this country's total daily needs.

Or, to look at it in fiscal terms, it's roughly equivalent to a daily contribution to the Exchequer of £3 million.

That's big money to be generated by such a pair of comparative youngsters. But then, Mobil and its fellow venture participants brought up 11. Beryl girls to be a sister act that's hard to follow.

Beryl B

Mobil Beryl B

NEWS IN BRIEF

Australia wants more banks

The Australian Government is to grant new banking licences to foreign and local groups early next year. Applicants for the new licences will be given about 10 weeks to submit proposals. The government will seek a minimum 50 per cent Australian equity in the new banks.

● MICRO BUSINESS SYSTEMS, the computer distribution and service company, has reported pretax profits of £1.7m for the six months to June 30 up from £850,000.

Tempus, page 25
● OUR PRICE, the London-based record shops group, comfortably exceeded its profits forecast when floated on the stock market six months ago, of £1.1m for the year to May 31.

Tempus, page 25
● THE UNITED Auto Workers Union has reached agreement with General Motors in Detroit on 43 new local contracts in bargaining by 147 branches.

● MR STANLEY KALMS, the chairman of Dixons, had a pay rise of almost 27 per cent last year, according to the electrical and photographic retailer's annual accounts. They show his salary increased from £95,565 to £121,263.

● The larger building societies borrowed heavily on the wholesale money market last month to make up for the small amounts of money coming into their deposit accounts. The Abbey National said it borrowed about £100m against a usual £15m to £20m.

Export hitch pushes Talbot into loss

By Our City Staff

A temporary breakdown in the biggest car export contract in Europe pushed the Talbot Motor Company into a loss for the first six months of this year.

The loss was the result of a big reduction in sales of car kits. Based on the old Hillman Hunter, to Iran caused by delays in receiving letters of credit.

The contract with Iran has run for 16 years and is worth about £115m a year. Talbot, a subsidiary of the French Peugeot car company, supplied 22,232 kits to Iran in the first half, compared with 46,224 for the same period last year.

This reduction as responsible for pretax loss of £1.9m, against a profit of £1.5m. Talbot last year made its first

profit for 10 years and it is hoped that shipments to Iran in the second half will be great enough to ensure that Talbot still makes a profit for the full year.

About 15,000 kits – one shipment – are at Newport docks in Gwent ready for export, but subject to delay by the dock strike.

Although the monitoring role will be checked in permitting all of Mexico's 550 creditor banks to accept the \$48.7-billion package, the banks have deliberately played it down so far because of political difficulties for Mexico in preventing it.

There also appears to be considerable controversy within the IMF at the prospect of its traditionally highly confidential

Increased monitoring role for IMF in Mexico debt deal

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

The International Monetary Fund will monitor the Mexican economy twice yearly until 1994 and the results will be made available to commercial banks by the Mexicans as part of the \$48.7-billion (£38.4-billion) multi-year rescheduling package completed over the weekend.

The monitoring will begin in 1986 after Mexico's present extended arrangement with the IMF expires in December 1985 and the banks will make the rescheduling package conditional on Mexico receiving good reports from the IMF for its economic policies.

The process will involve a type of enhanced surveillance similar to that already carried out once yearly on the economic policies of large member countries. The key differences in this case will be that each year the Mexicans will work with the IMF on a programme of economic adjustment to be evaluated by the IMF and, secondly, progress will be reviewed in mid-year.

Repayment schedule on Mexico's \$48 billion public sector debt

| | Revised | Previous |
|------|---------|----------|
| 1985 | 1.91 | 9.78 |
| 1986 | 2.07 | 9.23 |
| 1987 | 1.94 | 14.12 |
| 1988 | 2.44 | 13.54 |
| 1989 | 3.77 | 12.17 |
| 1990 | 4.41 | 10.48 |
| 1991 | 5.29 | 1.00 |
| 1992 | 5.50 | 0.71 |
| 1993 | 5.76 | 0.47 |
| 1994 | 5.91 | 0.44 |
| 1995 | 5.90 | 0.36 |
| 1996 | 6.13 | 0.36 |
| 1997 | 6.41 | 0.36 |
| 1998 | 6.44 | 0.36 |

evaluations being made available to commercial banks. There is concern that if this became the norm it could weaken the IMF's monitoring role because countries would be less forthcoming and there would be pressure to water down its reports.

This appears to be why the Mexicans will make the evaluations available to the banks rather than the IMF passing them on. The latest indications from Washington are that the IMF may simply tacitly acquiesce in allowing Mexico to hand out the information and in this way it may be possible to avoid having such a radical departure formally sanctioned by the executive board. It is thus hoped that the Mexican case can be kept separate from the broader issue of IMF surveillance and whether its reports should be made public.

Details of the Mexican deal, which greatly eases the burden of repaying its public sector debt as the table shows, will be sent this week to all the banks involved.

US airport seeks high-tech tenants

A high technology development at an American airport was unveiled in London yesterday with the aim of getting British computer companies to take space across the Atlantic.

The Massachusetts Port Authority (Massport) has leased 20 acres of its land at Logan Airport, Boston, to Macomber Development Associates, a local developer, to build a \$130m (£165m) project covering 1 million sq ft of space.

Massport hopes that the proximity of the international airport will bring in space users helped by the fact that the development is in a free trade zone which offers customs and financial benefits.

Short-term finance for the project is being arranged by Citycorp Real Estate with long-term funding from the Teachers Investment & Annuity Association, Coldwell Banker, the US property broker, is marketing the development in Britain and the rest of Europe.

In brief

● **HUNSELT (HOLDINGS)**: John Brook now holds 171,660 ordinary shares (14.31 per cent), compared with its previous holding

of 132,473 shares (11.08 per cent). Prudential Corporation no longer has a notifiable interest in Hunselet's ordinary shares (7.82 per cent).

● **FITCH & CO. DESIGN CONSULTANTS** (USM quotation): Half-year to June 30, Turnover £3m (£2.02m), Pretax profit \$557,000 (£425,000), EPS 3.7p (4.2p). Interim dividend 1.7p (1.54p). Fitch has applied to the Stock Exchange for a full listing. The momentum from Fitch's excellent first half has continued into the second.

● **LADBROKE GROUP**: London and Leeds Investments, a member of the property division of Ladbroke, has agreed to develop for Associated Dairies a new £50,000 sq. ft. Asda Superstore, fronting Edgware Road, on London and Leeds' 25-acre Capital Park development in Hendon. Completion is scheduled for June, 1985. London and Leeds acquired the Capital Park, finished in 1980 for about £1.3m.

● **GROSVENOR GROUP** has bought from British Syphon Industries, the plant, stock and business of Faulkner Engineering Co. £438,000 cash. Faulkner, based in Middlesbrough, is a manufacturer and fabricator of pressed metal components.

● **SYSTEMS RELIABILITY**: Publicly in March, 1984: Half-year to June 30, Turnover £3.03m (£3.69m), Pretax profit £1.25 (£844,000). Interim payment 1.32p.

British Vita hopes for Nissan deal

By Jonathan Clare

British Vita, the foam, fabric and fibre company is negotiating with Nissan about supplying its products to the Japanese car company's planned British plant.

Mr Robert McGee, British Vita's chief executive, said the contact was made through its joint venture in Japan. British Vita's partner in the joint venture is a big supplier to the Japanese motor industry.

Yesterday British Vita reported half-year profits ahead from just over £5m to £5.2m. Mr McGee said the increase was achieved despite heavy levels of investment, a slowdown in the consumer-led recovery and the effects of the miners' strike.

Capital expenditure in the first half was £3.75m, almost as much as in the whole of last year. Gearing has increased from 12 per cent to 17 per cent and will probably edge up to 25 per cent by the year-end. Mr Forney Parker, the chairman, says the company would be "comfortable" with the level of gearing.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

American accent for the gilts market

Already the Bank's outline of how it sees the future is clear but the detail will be home-grown

By Jeremy Warner

The Bank of England will publish a "green paper" shortly on the future structure of the gilt-edged market. It will be one of the most eagerly awaited of all policy documents during the revolutionary changes taking place in the City.

Its radical purpose is to outline the way in which government debt is sold and traded for the remainder of the century and beyond.

The outline is already drawn. The Bank of England has decided to follow the example of the huge Treasury bond market in the United States. Like its American equivalent, the Federal Reserve Board, the Bank will be responsible for supervising the market and acting for the Government.

In addition to the Bank, there will be three types of player: primary dealers, inter-dealer brokers, and agency brokers.

Primary dealers will succeed and have much in common with the present jobbers. They will be expected to maintain a continuous market in gilt-edged stocks. In return, they will have direct access to the Bank and its dealings in the market. There are 36 primary dealers in the United States - 12 banks and 24 non-banks; a similarly large number of traders is expected here.

The inter-dealer-brokers (IDBs), will be responsible for transacting business between primary dealers though there will be no obligation to use them. In the United States, there are five IDBs, of which, interestingly, three are British-owned: by Mercantile House, Exco and Kleinwort Benson.

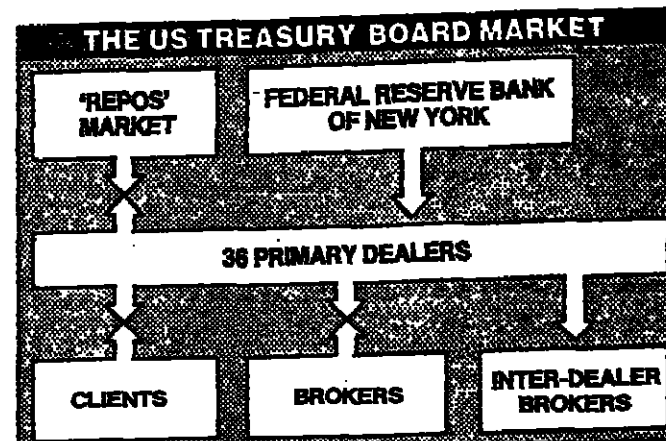
About half of the trades in the Treasury bond market are conducted among primary dealers. In practice, they almost always use IDBs for such business in order to preserve their anonymity. It is difficult to make money out of market

making if other market makers know what you are doing.

A much more tenacious justification for IDBs is that they help investor protection by departmentalizing selling and trading functions within the primary dealer firms. The seller gets on with transacting business with clients while the trader, through the IDBs, covers the firm's position.

The central position of IDBs also means that they act as the basic information providers in the market; consequently, their investment in technology is high. Each has its own price information system and the experienced trader can use the information on the screens in front of him to assess levels of activity and other traders' positions.

There is nothing to stop a



related and subject to the Securities and Exchange Commission, and transactions take place on a "caveat emptor" basis. You are expected to look after your own interests.

There is hardly any trading on a physical floor. As much as 95 per cent of trades are done over the telephone. Nor are players in the market expected to be members of any established stock exchange. As long as they are recognized by the Federal Reserve, that is enough.

In Britain by contrast, the small investor is still an important element in the gilt market, accounting for 75 per cent of all bargains though only 10 per cent of turnover. The market will thus have to be far more regulated than in the United States. It has been decided already that all players will come under the regulatory authority of the Stock Exchange.

The Exchange will thus have to adjust its membership rules to allow outsiders like Merrill Lynch, Salomon Brothers, Goldman, Sachs, to enter the fold.

It is generally agreed that a continuous "real time" trade tape would provide the most adequate form of investor protection. In layman's language, that is an information system, available to all, displaying all trading information, including details of trades as they occur.

The idea of such a tape - a perfectly feasible technological proposition - is not compatible with the concept of a centralized market. The Bank is likely to opt for time stamping of contract notes as the best

alternative. This would allow the investor to compare the price he has paid with the price in the market at the time the transaction was undertaken on his behalf.

It is very much a second class solution and barely adequate.

The objection to a "real time" tape is that it would enable non-primary dealers to use the dealers' prices without having

Time stamping is a second class solution and barely adequate

the latter's obligation to make a continuous market. The central market would slowly be sapped of its life blood by "fair weather trading", which is particularly easy in gilts because of their homogeneous nature.

The Bank's other big problem is deciding how to select the primary dealers. Currently all the City's children want to be primary gilt dealers when they grow up.

Some of the ground rules are beginning to become clear.

Loose liquidity rules have been rejected in favour of specific capital requirements. Primary dealers will be required to commit a quantity of fixed capital to the market. Adjusting capital levels on a continuous basis according to the level of business conducted has been ruled out.

It is hoped that fixed capital requirements will prevent domination of the market by one or two very large firms as

well as encourage small, specialist participation. Nobody in his right mind would tie up the quantity of capital required to pick up an entire new gilt-edged issue because most of the time the capital would be redundant.

Foreign firms would be allowed to become primary dealers if their governments agree to reciprocity in their debt markets. In practice, this is likely to mean that American firms will be allowed in, but few others.

The number of primary dealers is not expected to be restricted, as it is in the United States, though the Bank probably has a target figure in mind. Selection will be discretionary.

The Bank has decided to preserve the system of Stock Exchange money brokers for financing positions in the market. In the United States, dealers finance their positions through the highly developed "repos" market. The dealer enters into a sale and repurchase agreement with lenders outside the market. The Stock Exchange money brokers here perform much the same function, enabling institutions to borrow short of stock, and money when long.

The Stock Exchange is keen to avoid the plethora of information systems that have grown up around the market makers and IDBs in the United States. It is trying to persuade potential IDBs to use a single, closed-user system which would form a part of the ambitious Integrated Data Network which the exchange is trying to introduce for the securities industry as a whole.

There is a certain amount of self interest in this. The Exchange is keen to make TOPIC, its own information system, into the dominant price source for gilts.

In the United States, Cantor Fitzgerald, one of the IDBs, has helped to make Telerate into one of the world's leading financial information services, rivaling Reuters, by providing it with Treasury bond market prices.

Incidentally, both are controlled by Exco International. Reuters and Telerate are also pitching for the business in London.

Group Interim Results

(unaudited) for the six months to 30 June 1984

- Half year profits increased
- Acquisitions give wider product spread
- Dividend up 14%

| Year | £000 | 1984 | 1983 |
|---------|------------------------|--------|--------|
| 109,677 | Turnover | 61,157 | 54,526 |
| 7,947 | Operating profit | 3,907 | 3,973 |
| 3,520 | Associated companies | 1,788 | 1,569 |
| (891) | Interest | (465) | (508) |
| 10,576 | Profit before taxation | 5,230 | 5,034 |
| 5,032 | UK and Europe | 2,453 | 2,391 |
| 5,544 | International | 2,777 | 2,643 |
| 22.0p | Earnings per share | 10.3p | 10.0p |
| 5.36p | Dividend per share | 3.00p | 2.64p |

*Adjusted for the 1984 capitalisation issue

Copies of the Interim Report can be obtained from the Company Secretary

BRITISH VITA PLC, MIDDLETON, MANCHESTER M24 2DB

INTERNATIONAL LEADERS IN FOAM, FIBRE, FABRIC AND POLYMERIC PRODUCTS

The market will have to be far more regulated than in the US

primary dealer owning an IDB but in the United States this has never happened because such an association would inspire mistrust of the IDB's impartiality.

Thirdly there will be the ordinary brokers dealing between client and primary dealers. They will be able to match deals between their clients and deal on their own behalf. Primary dealers will also be allowed to deal directly with the outside investor.

The model of the US Treasury bond market has thus provided the basic structure for Britain. Here the similarities end and the detail of the market structure drawn up by the Bank becomes intriguing.

The government debt market in the United States is largely wholesale and dominated by a small number of highly professional players. There is a bare minimum of regulation (unlike equity markets in the United States, which are highly regulated)

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds

| 1983/84 | 1984/85 | 1985/86 | 1986/87 | 1987/88 | 1988/89 | 1989/90 | 1990/91 | 1991/92 | 1992/93 | 1993/94 | 1994/95 | 1995/96 | 1996/97 | 1997/98 | 1998/99 | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 | 2004/05 | 2005/06 | 2006/07 | 2007/08 | 2008/09 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | 2022/23 | 2023/24 | 2024/25 | 2025/26 | 2026/27 | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | 2031/32 | 2032/33 | 2033/34 | 2034/35 | 2035/36 | 2036/37 | 2037/38 | 2038/39 | 2039/40 | 2040/41 | 2041/42 | 2042/43 | 2043/44 | 2044/45 | 2045/46 | 2046/47 | 2047/48 | 2048/49 | 2049/50 | 2050/51 | 2051/52 | 2052/53 | 2053/54 | 2054/55 | 2055/56 | 2056/57 | 2057/58 | 2058/59 | 2059/60 | 2060/61 | 2061/62 | 2062/63 | 2063/64 | 2064/65 | 2065/66 | 2066/67 | 2067/68 | 2068/69 | 2069/70 | 2070/71 | 2071/72 | 2072/73 | 2073/74 | 2074/75 | 2075/76 | 2076/77 | 2077/78 | 2078/79 | 2079/80 | 2080/81 | 2081/82 | 2082/83 | 2083/84 | 2084/85 | 2085/86 | 2086/87 | 2087/88 | 2088/89 | 2089/90 | 2090/91 | 2091/92 | 2092/93 | 2093/94 | 2094/95 | 2095/96 | 2096/97 | 2097/98 | 2098/99 | 2099/00 | 2100/01 | 2101/02 | 2102/03 | 2103/04 | 2104/05 | 2105/06 | 2106/07 | 2107/08 | 2108/09 | 2109/10 | 2110/11 | 2111/12 | 2112/13 | 2113/14 | 2114/15 | 2115/16 | 2116/17 | 2117/18 | 2118/19 | 2119/20 | 2120/21 | 2121/22 | 2122/23 | 2123/24 | 2124/25 | 2125/26 | 2126/27 | 2127/28 | 2128/29 | 2129/30 | 2130/31 | 2131/32 | 2132/33 | 2133/34 | 2134/35 | 2135/36 | 2136/37 | 2137/38 | 2138/39 | 2139/40 | 2140/41 | 2141/42 | 2142/43 | 2143/44 | 2144/45 | 2145/46 | 2146/47 | 2147/48 | 2148/49 | 2149/50 | 2150/51 | 2151/52 | 2152/53 | 2153/54 | 2154/55 | 2155/56 | 2156/57 | 2157/58 | 2158/59 | 2159/60 | 2160/61 | 2161/62 | 2162/63 | 2163/64 | 2164/65 | 2165/66 | 2166/67 | 2167/68 | 2168/69 | 2169/70 | 2170/71 | 2171/72 | 2172/73 | 2173/74 | 2174/75 | 2175/76 | 2176/77 | 2177/78 | 2178/79 | 2179/80 | 2180/81 | 2181/82 | 2182/83 | 2183/84 | 2184/85 | 2185/86 | 2186/87 | 2187/88 | 2188/89 | 2189/90 | 2190/91 | 2191/92 | 2192/93 | 2193/94 | 2194/95 | 2195/96 | 2196/97 | 2197/98 | 2198/99 | 2199/00 | 2200/01 | 2201/02 | 2202/03 | 2203/04 | 2204/05 | 2205/06 | 2206/07 | 2207/08 | 2208/09 | 2209/10 | 2210/11 | 2211/12 | 2212/13 | 2213/14 | 2214/15 | 2215/16 | 2216/17 | 2217/18 | 2218/19 | 2219/20 | 2220/21 | 2221/22 | 2222/23 | 2223/24 | 2224/25 | 2225/26 | 2226/27 | 2227/28 | 2228/29 | 2229/30 | 2230/31 | 2231/32 | 2232/33 | 2233/34 | 2234/35 | 2235/36 | 2236/37 | 2237/38 | 2238/39 | 2239/40 | 2240/41 | 2241/42 | 2242/43 | 2243/44 | 2244/45 | 2245/46 | 2246/47 | 2247/48 | 2248/49 | 2249/50 | 2250/51 | 2251/52 | 2252/53 | 2253/54 | 2254/55 | 2255/56 | 2256/57 | 2257/58 | 2258/59 | 2259/60 | 2260/61 | 2261/62 | 2262/63 | 2263/64 | 2264/65 | 2265/66 | 2266/67 | 2267/68 | 2268/69 | 2269/70 | 2270/71 | 2271/72 | 2272/73 | 2273/74 | 2274/75 | 2275/76 | 2276/77 | 2277/78 | 2278/79 | 2279/80 | 2280/81 | 2281/82 | 2282/83 | 2283/84 | 2284/85 | 2285/86 | 2286/87 | 2287/88 | 2288/89 | 2289/90 | 2290/91 | 2291/92 | 2292/93 | 2293/94 | 2294/95 | 2295/96 | 2296/97 | 2297/98 | 2298/99 | 2299/00 | 2300/01 | 2301/02 | 2302/03 | 2303/04 | 2304/05 | 2305/06 | 2306/07 | 2307/08 | 2308/09 | 2309/10 | 2310/11 | 2311/12 | 2312/13 | 2313/14 | 2314/15 | 2315/16 | 2316/17 | 2317/18 | 2318/19 | 2319/20 | 2320/21 | 2321/22 | 2322/23 | 2323/24 | 2324/25 | 2325/26 | 2326/27 | 2327/28 | 2328/29 | 2329/30 | 2330/31 | 2331/32 | 2332/33 | 2333/34 | 2334/35 | 2335/36 | 2336/37 | 2337/38 | 2338/39 | 2339/40 | 2340/41 | 2341/42 | 2342/43 | 2343/44 | 2344/45 | 2345/46 | 2346/47 | 2347/48 | 2348/49 | 2349/50 | 2350/51 | 2351/52 | 2352/53 | 2353/54 | 2354/55 | 2355/56 | 2356/57 | 2357/58 | 2358/59 | 2359/60 | 2360/61 | 2361/62 | 2362/63 | 2363/64 | 2364/65 | 2365/66 | 2366/67 | 2367/68 | 2368/69 | 2369/70 | 2370/71 | 2371/72 | 2372/73 | 2373/74 | 2374/75 | 2375/76 | 2376/77 | 2377/78 | 2378/79 | 2379/80 | 2380/81 | 2381/82 | 2382/83 | 2383/84 | 2384/85 | 2385/86 | 2386/87 | 2387/88 | 2388/89 | 2389/90 | 2390/91 | 2391/92 | 2392/93 | 2393/94 | 2394/95 | 2395/96 | 2396/97 | 2397/98 | 2398/99 | 2399/00 | 2400/01 | 2401/02 | 2402/03 | 2403/04 | 2404/05 | 2405/06 | 2406/07 | 2407/08 | 2408/09 | 2409/10 | 2410/11 | 2411/12 | 2412/13 | 2413/14 | 2414/15 | 2415/16 | 2416/17 | 2417/18 | 2418/19 | 2419/20 | 2420/21 | 2421/22 | 2422/23 | 2423/24 | 2424/25 | 2425/26 | 2426/27 | 2427/28 | 2428/29 | 2429/30 | 2430/31 | 2431/32 | 2432/33 | 2433/34 | 2434/35 | 2435/36 | 2436/37 | 2437/38 | 2438/39 | 2439/40 | 2440/41 | 2441/42 | 2442/43 | 2443/44 | 2444/45 | 2445/46 | 2446/47 | 2447/48 | 2448/49 | 2449/50 | 2450/51 | 2451/52 | 2452/53 | 2453/54 | 2454/55 | 2455/56 | 2456/57 | 2457/58 | 2458/59 | 2459/60 | 2460/61 | 2461/62 | 2462/63 | 2463/64 | 2464/65 | 2465/66 | 2466/67 | 2467/68 | 2468/69 | 2469/70 | 2470/71 | 2471/72 | 2472/73 | 2473/74 | 2474/75 | 2475/76 | 2476/77 | 2477/78 | 2478/79 | 2479/80 | 2480/81 | 2481/82 | 2482/83 | 2483/84 | 2484/85 | 2485/86 | 2486/87 | 2487/88 | 2488/89 | 2489/90 | 2490/91 | 2491/92 | 2492/93 | 2493/94 | 2494/95 | 2495/96 | 2496/97 | 2497/98 | 2498/99 | 2499/00 | 2500/01 | 2501/02 | 2502/03 | 2503/04 | 2504/05 | 2505/06 | 2506/07 | 2507/08 | 2508/09 | 2509/10 | 2510/11 | 2511/12 | 2512/13 | 2513/14 | 2514/15 | 2515/16 | 2516/17 | 2517/18 | 2518/19 | 2519/20 | 2520/21 | 2521/22 | 2522/23 | 2523/24 | 2524/25 | 2525/26 | 2526/27 | 2527/28 | 2528/29 | 2529/30 | 2530/31 | 2531/32 | 2532/33 | 2533/34 | 2534/35 | 2535/36 | 2536/37 | 2537/38 | 2538/39 | 2539/40 | 2540/41 | 2541/42 | 2542/43 | 2543/44 | 2544/45 | 2545/46 | 2546/47 | 2547/48 | 2548/49 | 2549/50 | 2550/51 | 2551/52 | 2552/53 | 2553/54 | 2554/55 | 2555/56 | 2556/57 | 2557/58 | 2558/59 | 2559/60 | 2560/61 | 2561/62 | 2562/63 | 2563/64 | 2564/65 | 2565/66 | 2566/67 | 2567/68 | 2568/69 | 2569/70 | 2570/71 | 2571/72 | 2572/73 | 2573/74 | 2574/75 | 2575/76 | 2576/77 | 2577/78 | 2578/79 | 2579/80 | 2580/81 | 2581/82 | 2582/83 | 2583/84 | 2584/85 | 2585/86 | 2586/87 | 2587/88 | 2588/89 | 2589/90 | 2590/91 | 2591/92 | 2592/93 | 2593/94 | 2594/95 | 2595/96 | 2596/97 | 2597/98 | 2598/99 | 2599/00 | 2600/01 | 2601/02 | 2602/03 | 2603/04 | 2604/05 | 2605/06 | 2606/07 | 2607/08 | 2608/09 | 2609/10 | 2610/11 | 2611/12 | 2612/13 | 2613/14 | 2614/15 | 2615/16 | 2616/17 | 2617/18 | 2618/19 | 2619/20 | 2620/21 | 2621/22 | 2622/23 | 2623/24 | 2624/25 | 2625/26 | 2626/27 | 2627/28 | 2628/29 | 2629/30 | 2630/31 | 2631/32 | 2632/33 | 2633/34 | 2634/35 | 2635/36 | 2636/37 | 2637/38 | 2638/39 | 2639/40 | 2640/41 | 2641/42 | 2642/43 | 2643/44 | 2644/45 | 2645/46 | 2646/47 | 2647/48 | 2648/49 | 2649/50 | 2650/51 | 2651/52 | 2652/53 | 2653/54 | 2654/55 | 2655/56 | 2656/57 | 2657/58 | 2658/59 | 2659/60 | 2660/61 | 2661/62 | 2662/63 | 2663/64 | 2664/65 | 2665/66 | 2666/67 | 2667/68 | 2668/69 | 2669/70 | 2670/71 | 2671/72 | 2672/73 | 2673/74 | 2674/75 | 2675/76 | 2676/77 | 2677/78 | 2678/79 | 2679/80 | 2680/81 | 2681/82 | 2682/83 | 2683/84 | 2684/85 | 2685/86 | 2686/87 | 2687/88 | 2688/89 | 2689/90 | 2690/91 | 2691/92 | 2692/93 | 2693/94 | 2694/95 | 2695/96 | 2696/97 | 2697/98 | 2698/99 | 2699/00 | 2700/01 | 2701/02 | 2702/03 | 2703/04 | 2704/05 | 2705/06 | 2706/07 | 2707/08 | 2708/09 | 2709/10 | 2710/11 | 2711/12 | 2712/13 | 2713/14 | 2714/15 | 2715/16 | 2716/17 | 2717/18 | 2718/19 | 2719/20 | 2720/21 | 2721/22 | 2722/23 | 2723/24 | 2724/25 | 2725/26 | 2726/27 | 2727/28 | 2728/29 | 2729/30 | 2730/31 | 2731/32 | 2732/33 | 2733/34 | 2734/35 | 2735/36 | 2736/37 | 2737/38 | 2738/39 | 2739/40 | 2740/41 | 2741/42 | 2742/43 | 2743/44 | 2744/45 | 2745/46 | 2746/47 | 2747/48 | 2748/49 | 2749/50 | 2750/51 | 2751/52 | 2752/53 | 2753/54 | 2754/55 | 2755/56 | 2756/57 | 2757/58 | 2758/59 | 2759/60 | 2760/61 | 2761/62 | 2762/63 | 2763/64 | 2764/65 | 2765/66 | 2766/67 | 2767/68 | 2768/69 | 2769/70 | 2770/71 | 2771/72 | 2772/73 | 2773/74 | 2774/75 | 2775/76 | 2776/77 | 2777/78 | 2778/79 | 2779/80 | 2780/81 | 2781/82 | 2782/83 | 2783/84 | 2784/85 | 2785/86 | 2786/87 | 2787/88 | 2788/89 | 2789/90 | 2790/91 | 2791/92 | 2792/93 | 2793/94 | 2794/95 | 2795/96 | 2796/97 | 2797/98 | 2798/99 | 2799/00 | 2800/01 | 2801/02 | 2802/03 | 2803/04 | 2804/05 | 2805/06 | 2806/07 | 2807/08 | 2808/09 | 2809/10 | 2810/11 | 2811/12 | 2812/13 | 2813/14 | 2814/15 | 2815/16 | 2816/17 | 2817/18 | 2818/19 | 2819/20 | 2820/21 | 2821/22 | 2822/23 | 2823/24 | 2824/25 | 2825/26 | 2826/27 | 2827/28 | 2828/29 | 2829/30 | 2830/31 | 2831/32 | 2832/33 | 2833/34 | 2834/35 | 2835/36 | 2836/37 | 2837/38 | 2838/39 | 2839/40 | 2840/41 | 2841/42 | 2842/43 | 2843/44 | 2844/45 | 2845/46 | 2846/47 | 2847/48 | 2848/49 | 2849/50 | 2850/51 | 2851/52 | 2852/53 | 2853/54 | 2854/55 | 2855/56 | 2856/57 | 2857/58 | 2858/59 | 2859/60 | 2860/61 | 2861/62 | 2862/63 | 2863/64 | 2864/65 | 2865/66 | 2866/67 | 2867/68 | 2868/69 | 2869/70 | 2870/71 | 2871/72 | 2872/73 | 2873/74 | 2874/75 | 2875/76 | 2876/77 | 2877/78 | 2878/79 | 2879/80 | 2880/81 | 2881/82 | 2882/83 | 2883/84 | 2884/85 | 2885/86 | 2886/87 | 2887/88 | 2888/89 | 2889/90 | 2890/91 | 2891/92 | 2892/93 | 2893/94 | 2894/95 | 2895/96 | 2896/97 | 2897/98 | 2898/99 | 2899/00 | 2900/01 | 2901/02 | 2902/03 | 2903/04 | 2904/05 | 2905/06 | 2906/07 | 2907/08 | 2908/09 | 2909/10 | 2910/11 | 2911/12 | 2912/13 | 2913/14 | 2914/15 | 2915/16 | 2916/17 | 2917/18 | 2918/19 | 2919/20 | 2920/21 | 2921/22 | 2922/23 | 2923/24 | 2924/25 | 2925/26 | 2926/27 | 2927/28 | 2928/29 | 2929/30 | 2930/31 | 2931/32 | 2932/33 | 2933/34 | 2934/35 | 2935/36 | 2936/37 | 2937/38 | 2938/39 | 2939/40 | 2940/41 | 2941/42 | 2942/43 | 2943/44 | 2944/45 | 2945/46 | 2946/47 | 2947/48 | 2948/49 | 2949/50 | 2950/51 | 2951/52 | 2952/53 | 2953/54 | 2954/55 | 2955/56 | 2956/57 | 2957/58 | 2958/59 | 2959/60 | 2960/61 | 2961/62 | 2962/63 | 2963/64 | 2964/65 | 2965/66 | 2966/67 | 2967/68 | 2968/69 | 2969/70 | 2970/71 | 2971/72 | 2972/73 | 2973/74 | 2974/75 | 2975/76 | 2976/77 | 2977/78 | 2978/79 | 2979/80 | 2980/81 | 2981/82 | 2982/83 | 2983/84 | 2984/85 | 2985/86 | 2986/87 | 2987/88 | 2988/89 | 2989/90 | 2990/91 | 2991/92 | 2992/93 | 2993/94 | 2994/95 | 2995/96 | 2996/97 | 2997/98 | 2998/99 | 2999/00 | 3000/01 | 3001/02 | 3002/03 | 3003/04 | 3004/05 | 3005/06 | 3006/07 | 3007/08 | 3008/09 | 3009/10 | 3010/11 | 3011/12 | 3012/13 | 3013/14 | 3014/1 |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------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STOCK MARKET REPORT

Trafalgar House 'set to sell P&O stake'

By Derek Pain

market

With the Edinburgh pit talks keeping most investors on the sidelines, the stock market was once again reduced to speculating about short stakes and bids yesterday.

Persistent suggestions that Trafalgar House had abandoned any lingering bid hope for P and O sent shares of the shipping group tumbling 7p to 350p.

Some market men were insisting that Trafalgar was so upset by last week's £77m P and O writedown and the accompanying cautious profits statement that it had put its 7.1 per cent shareholding in the shipping group up for sale.

If the Trafalgar holding is on the market one potential buyer is Sterling Guaranty Trust, headed by P and O's chairman, Mr Jeffrey Sterling, which already has 5.5 per cent of the shipping group.

Mellor International, one of a gaggle of US companies a full listing, seem set for full year profits of at least £1.74m against £945,000, following yesterday's £612,000 interim profits. The midway dividend is 1p against 0.84p. A family controlled company making electric kettles and other cookware, Mellor joined the US in May 1983 at 70p. The shares unchanged at 180p yesterday.

While the future of the Trafalgar share stake dominated the P & O share price, Lucas Industries, the car accessories and engineering group, was again in the bid spotlight. At one time its shares were down to 202p but closed at 209p. Some market men remain convinced that despite last week's 3p denials the Rockwell Group of America is near to launching a bid. Suggested price: 250p a share.

Away from the speculation stocks the market drifted with trading down to a trickle. The miners' talks and the situation in the docks were the major factors with the latest poor display by sterling against the dollar being largely ignored. The market sees very little immediate pressure for a rise in interest rates.

The FT 30-share index was at its lowest level of the day - down 4.3 points at 847.4. The FTSE index was 7.7 points off at 1,091.6.

Government stocks, on interest rate consideration, recorded

modest progress gains of up to 2p.

Imperial Group, on continuing suggestions that it is about to sell its troublesome US catering and hotel group, Howard Johnson, was firm, rising 1p to 168p. Hanson Trust is thought to have built up a modest, say 2 per cent, shareholding on the expectation that Imps is on the verge of making a big disposal.

The brewing to tobacco group acquired Howard Johnson for about £300m four years ago. The slide in the value of the pound against the dollar means that Imps can escape from the hotel group involvement, despite its disappointing profits, without suffering any capital loss.

If it should disentangle itself from Howard Johnson, the market feeling is that Imps would then bid for Northern Foods, which has interests spreading from convenience foods to milk and beer. Certainly Northern would dovetail into the Imps setup. Northern, which recently denied any takeover talks, was 2p lower at 180p.

Interest remains high in food shares with yesterday's £23.2m bid for the Lennons off-licence and supermarket group from Dee Corporation, keeping the bid pooling. Lennons jumped 9p to 57p on the bid.

William Low, the Scottish supermarket chain which has come in for speculative flurries, gained 10p to 455p, and William Morrison, the northern supermarket chain, rose 8p to 180p.

Single Group, strong in cash-and-carry in the West Country, was again active on bid speculation, rising 2p to 72p. But Brooke Bond eased 1p to 115p, just 1p above the level of Unilever's £355m bid, as the market took the view that the battle is now all over bar the shouting. Rival bidders Tate and Lyle eased 4p to 378p. Unilever fell 10p to 915p.

A consortium of managers is to buy out Tibbitt & Britten, a jointly owned subsidiary of Unilever and Van E. Loos. The company is a specialist transport business which handles the collection and delivery of hanging garments throughout Britain and also has an international forwarding operation. No price was disclosed, but Unilever said the consideration was not material to its total assets.

Equity turnover on Friday was 13,005 valued at £216.942m. Gilt bargains were 1,248. Total of UK and Irish stocks traded was 114.8m.

Recent takeover favourite Rowntree Macintosh slipped 8p to 330p, but Pauls (formerly Pauls & White), one of the oldest takeover candidates of them all, rose 2p to 223p.

Bunzl advanced 3p to 308p as the company continued with stockbroker presentation. BTI, reporting tomorrow, slipped 4p to 487p as one broker suggested that market estimates of £125m were too high and opted for about £115m.

Standard Telephones and Cables now has 81.4 per cent of the ICL computer group and its offer remains open. STC shares fell 6p to 256p.

The American ITT group now has some 27 per cent of STC and there are rumours flowing that following the decision to cut its interest below the 25 per cent level it may be prepared to consider offers to sell its shareholding.

Former high-flyer Warrior Resources, which fell from grace when it suffered the indignity of striking water in Alaska, is set for an Unlisted Securities Market debut early next year when it should have profits of some £600,000 under its belt. Now involved in some promising US oil and gas ventures, the re-styled Warrior could top £1m in its next year. The shares listed in Vancouver and traded under a rule 143 facility in London, were 56p yesterday. In their heyday they were 470p.

Sears Holdings, the betting shops, shoes and stores group, slipped 1p to 74p as about 750,000 shares went through the market. The family Style shoe shop chain, which beat off a take-over bid from Queensway, jumped 22p to 113p ahead of figures, due soon.

Volvo, the Scandinavian car and industrial group, is bidding to raise its stake in Hamilton Oil from 32 per cent to between 47 and 50 per cent. It is tendering \$19.50 (about £15.35) for 4 million shares in Hamilton, the new holding company which earlier this year bought out shareholders in the former Hamilton Oil GB in a controversial share exchange.

TEMPUS

Glass sees Rockware through to profit

Rockware seemed last year to get to grips with the problems of being in an overcompetitive, mature industry, and the figures for the first half of 1984 show that some progress has been made. The £8.51m pre-tax loss incurred over the same period last year has been turned into a £104,000 profit. More important, none of the company's remaining operating divisions is losing money.

The crucial turnaround has been in the all-important glass division which, after the disposal of Kingspeed and Alida, makes up 85 per cent of the business. The success in pushing through a 7 per cent price rise last September, followed by a further 8 per cent this year helped to transform glass's £5.93m operating loss into a profit of £794,000. Plastics added its mite by raising profits from £134,000 to £186,000, and engineering solders on.

Nevertheless, the outcome would have looked distinctly weaker had it not been for an exceptional item of £563,000 from further cuts in pension scheme contributions and a £583,000 extraordinary cost from closing the Reading plastics operation.

Nor is Rockware obviously out of the wood. Even after taking classic measures such as closures, 20 per cent cuts in stocks, and price increases, interest charges of £1.58m, although much less than last year's £2.32m wiped out operating profits of £1.14m. Anything should have been an improvement after the operating loss of £5.74m in the first half of 1983, but with borrowings of more than £30m representing some 60 per cent of shareholders' funds, Rockware faces a tough struggle.

The medium-term strategy is to increase the necessary profitability out of the glass assets, in what is hoped to be a less mad market, while hanging on to the 25 per cent market share.

Dividends will follow. The fact that at yesterday's price of 33p, up 1p, Rockware is capitalised at about a quarter of shareholders' funds underlines the difficulties.

Dee-Lennons

Dee Corporation's £23.2m offer for Lennons Group was too good to refuse and the Lennons board accepted it with

alacrity. The approach was only made at the weekend, although the two companies have talked before.

Dee is paying a premium of 49.5 per cent over the recent Lennons share price of 40p and a 49.7 per cent premium over net assets of £15.5m, although negotiations to come will reduce the goodwill element. This seems to be the going rate for regional supermarket chains. Argill Group paid a 48 per cent share price premium for Amos Hinton.

For Lennons shareholders, who have seen their shares slump to lows at 29p last year and reach a high before the bid of only 50p against the all-share offer price of 59.8p, the deal looks good. Sainsbury's Northward expansion has made life harder for Lennons, already struggling in the depressed North-west. Pretax profits in 1983-84 at £1.17m showed a disappointing downturn in the second half.

Dee intends to turn the 41 Lennons supermarkets into Gateway stores. Gateway is used to operating very profitably in difficult areas like Merseyside and Northern Ireland. If Dee's proven formula for integrating Key Markets can be applied with equal success to Lennons' supermarkets, the benefits will flow very quickly.

Lennons's 94 free-standing off-licences will be more of a problem. They have not been performing well and Dee is considering selling them.

Our Price

Our Price, the London-based record shops group, has produced full-year profits comfortably above the forecast of £1.1m it made when floated on the stock market six months ago.

Pretax profits rose 38 per cent to £1.2m and with the record business plainly going through a much better patch than other areas of the consumer market, another good year is in prospect.

Some big new releases, including the first Frankie Goes to Hollywood album next month and a new David Bowie LP, should ensure that buoyant record sales so far this year - in the second quarter the industry chalked up an 18 per cent increase in sales - are extended into the Christmas period when the group records about a quarter of its annual sales.

Our Price is continuing to

concentrate its store opening programme in the recession-resistant South East of England. Fifteen stores were opened last year and about 18 are planned for the next 12 months, of which at least eight will be trading in time for Christmas.

This rapid penetration of the Southern market brings with it the danger of a price war at some stage, though Our Price's increasing influence with the manufacturers would give it the ability to wage such a battle reasonably well.

A more nagging doubt about the long-term future is how the group is going to tackle expansion outside the South East as it surely must in two or three years. Here the shop-in-shop experiment with Selfridges in London's Oxford Street could provide a solution.

Now if the group could do similar deals with the strongly regional Woolworth Holdings...

Micro Business

Micro Business Systems yesterday unveiled its last set of interim results as a USM company and the pretax profits of £1.7m added to the impressive record which the company takes with it to the first division of a full listing.

In its six-year history, MBS, which distributes and services computers, has boosted its turnover from £508,000 to more than £15m in the first half of this year, which is already more than the whole of 1983. With profits demonstrating a similar upward trend, the company has a lot to live up to.

As with all high technology companies which grow rapidly, pushing the share price skyward, there is always an underlying fear that the bubble will burst. When market capitalization exceeds asset value significantly, as it does at MBS, the fear is not without justification.

MBS, however, has gone to great lengths to reduce its exposure to this risk.

The profits growth is a function of organic expansion and an acquisition policy which has allowed the group to improve its spread of operations. As the group structure gradually takes shape the ability to react swiftly and effectively to changes in market needs will be enhanced.

This year's balance sheet will suffer at the hands of an £11m goodwill write-off but a further improvement in profits will do much to offset the impact.

TENNIS



McEnroe sign language for "the gap is that wide"

McEnroe opens up a gap that is unbridgeable

From Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Finsbury Meadows

At least John McEnroe and Ivan Lendl saved on the electricity bill - there was no need to switch on the floodlights - and gave us time for a leisurely far-east dinner amid the bustle of Runyon's McEnroe took only an hour and 40 minutes to beat Lendl 6-3, 6-4, 6-1 in the men's singles final of the US Open tennis championships. On Saturday, the women had taken seven minutes longer.

McEnroe is the most gifted shot-maker since the more elegant but less sternly competitive Billie Jean King. Lendl wrote humdrum prose while McEnroe wrote poetry - unless by so carefully constructed that every word hit the mark. The headline writers were not inspired. The best they could come up with yesterday was the baldly accurate comment: "McEnroe makes Lendl look terrible." That was how it was.

Both had been physically drained by awfully strenuous semi-finals. Lendl looked stiff - in body and mind, technique and tactics. McEnroe's performance was exemplary in its economy of effort. His reactions were fast, his touch sure. He was aggressive but did not waste energy on brutality. Like a boxer intent on winning inside the distance, he made every punch count.

McEnroe served and volleyed with such precision that Lendl had only two break points. They occurred on the first and third sets. Lendl's only chance to get into a match that was a real contest. On Saturday we had been granted a blooming feast of tennis. On Sunday we slipped coffee and asked for the bill.

This year McEnroe has tended to beat his chief rivals, Lendl and Jimmy Connors, by crushing margins. Lendl has stepped into the same class once without suggesting he could stay there. McEnroe's two defeats this year proved nothing except that he is human. He is out on his own, and should remain there until new challenges take on a job that is beyond Lendl and Connors.

This was McEnroe's fourth US singles championship. For the third consecutive year, Lendl was runner-up. Lendl, indeed, has reached six grand slam singles finals and has won only one - when McEnroe let him off the hook in Paris this year. For all Lendl's strength and skill and bleak resolution, he seems to lack the basic confidence and spark of inspiration that can produce improvised splendour on great occasions. He is like a gambler intimidated when the stakes reach the house limit.

The last right-hander to win the US title was John Newcombe in 1973. The last left-hander was Guillermo Vilas in 1977. Martina Navratilova, who retained the women's title, has won six consecutive grand slam singles championships and 109 of her last 110 matches. McEnroe and Miss Navratilova are reminders of the peak years of Rod Laver and Billie Jean King. She has decided to call it Apollo.

Margaret Court. We knew we were lucky to enjoy both at the same time.

Miss Navratilova and Pam Shriver retained the women's doubles title and have not been beaten in a grand slam event since the 1982 US championships. John Fitzgerald and Tommie Smeed, playing together for the first time, became the first overseas team to win the men's doubles since Bob Hewitt and Frew McMillan in 1977. The mixed title went to Tom Gullikson and Manuela Maleeva - the first Bulgarian to win a grand slam championship.

The words "first since" have often been on our lips. This was the first time since 1967 (Billie Jean King and Newcombe) that the same players had won the Wimbledon and US singles titles. It was the first time since 1960 that the same men had contested the Wimbledon and US semi-finals.

Pat Cash, aged 19, who had a match point against Lendl, was the first Australian to reach the semi-finals here since Newcombe and Ken Rosewall in 1974, and the first since Rosewall to advance to the Wimbledon and US semi-finals the same year.

John Lloyd, who beat four more highly ranked players and won a total of £18,500, was the first British player since Mark Cox, in 1966, to progress to the quarter-finals. Anne Hobbs, who shared second prize in the women's doubles with Wendy Turnbull, was the first British player to contest a final here since Virginia Wade partnered Olga Morosova in the French semi-finals in 1976. And at the age of 14 years and four months Gabriela Sabatini, of Argentina, became the youngest player of either sex to win a match in the US championships. In fact, she won two.

Miss Navratilova won most prize-money, a total of £148,000, though McEnroe pocketed a cheque for £150,000. Of those who did not win, the best rewarded were Chris Lloyd with £64,000 and Lendl with £62,000. The attendance, like the prize-money, was a world record. The official figures, and 391,814, had been reached by the time the last match was over. Perhaps the championships will be best remembered for Saturday's extraordinary programme in which the men's semi-finals and the women's final lasted for as many sets as the rules permit and play ended at 11.13 pm.

Off court, too, there was much that will linger in the memory from this fortnight in the Big Apple - a jazz club where a drummer was so touched by magic that nobody on the premises (including the drummer) could believe what was happening in the French restaurant where a hefty waitress burst suddenly and powerfully into "La Vie En Rose" and the journalist who resented an abandoned Saturday puppy from the park outside the tennis centre and flew home with it to Sacramento. She has decided to call it Apollo.

difficult seas, and was well placed off the west coast of Corsica when she retired. Like the other yachts, Ultimatum was having trouble shaking off the smaller one-tons. Arrived in the other casuals of the Lina (Pauze, New Guinea), Passion 2 (France), Red Rock IV (Argentina), Mustang and Chin d'Océan (Luxembourg) and the Big Greek Machine (Greece). When combined with the non-starters, the Australian boats Supaduck, Diva and Sabina and Incisil III from Belgium, this makes for one of the highest retirements in a recent, major ocean race.

YACHTING

Wind defeats Ultimatum

From a Special Correspondent, Porto Cervo

Relentless 35 to 45 knot winds from the north-west produced a string of retirements from the Sardinia Cup's long offshore race. Among them was John Lewis's 20-tonne, one-tonne, one-tons, which dropped out having battled just 80 miles north from Porto Cervo. She was forced out at 0300 yesterday by a broken reef foil, a damaged boom, a collapsed mast and a damaged mainmast.

Ultimatum's crew, headed by helmsman Tony Gale, had struggled through the Straits of Bonifacio where funneling winds produced

difficult seas, and was well placed off the west coast of Corsica when she retired. Like the other yachts, Ultimatum was having trouble shaking off the smaller one-tons. Arrived in the other casuals of the Lina (Pauze, New Guinea), Passion 2 (France), Red Rock IV (Argentina), Mustang and Chin d'Océan (Luxembourg) and the Big Greek Machine (Greece). When combined with the non-starters, the Australian boats Supaduck, Diva and Sabina and Incisil III from Belgium, this makes for one of the highest retirements in a recent, major ocean race.

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FOREIGN EXCHANGES

It was another good day for the dollar on foreign exchanges yesterday, although best levels were not held. An early surge saw the dollar momentarily over three deutschmarks. But profit-taking and some intervention by the West German central bank brought the dollar back later in the session.

Sterling performed creditably, helped to a small degree by the latest round of talks aimed at resolving the miners' dispute after touching a record low of 1.2710 to the dollar, the pound rallied to finish 10 points better on balance at 1.2765.

Its effective exchange rate index closed 0.1 better at 77.7. The dollar rose from 2.9820 to 2.9930 against deutschmark, from 2.4810 to 2.4905 in terms of the Swiss franc, and from 9.1475 to 9.1875 at the expense of the French franc.

The yen eased to 245.80 from 245.70.

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Effective exchange rate compared with 1978 was 8.1 at 77.7.

OTHER RATES

Market rates
New York 1.2765-1.2770
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